



# Jordan Times

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## West delays moves as Yugoslav talks stall

BRUSSELS (R) — Attempts by the European Community (EC) to mediate an end to the Yugoslav crisis stalled on Friday, while NATO dithered on whether to use force under a new United Nations mandate (see page 8) to protect relief convoys. Scheduled weekend talks under EC auspices between the leaders of Bosnia's warring Croats, Serbs and Muslims were called off after a perfunctory plenary meeting when the Bosnian government said it would not take part. "The (Bosnian) Serbs have to discuss — negotiate or wage war. They cannot do both," Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, told reporters as he left the Brussels talks chaired by Britain's Lord Carrington. Across town at NATO's headquarters, Secretary-General Manfred Wommersley said the U.S.-led alliance was considering a range of options for protecting relief convoys in Bosnia, including various degrees of troop commitment from allies. But he told a news conference after a meeting of ambassadors from the 16 NATO countries that the alliance's military planners would have until Aug. 24 to produce a detailed report on the options.

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## Egypt, Syria plan oil exploration company

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria and Egypt have decided to set up a joint company to explore for oil in both countries and abroad, Egyptian Oil Minister Hamadi Al Banbi was quoted as saying on Friday. The company was being formed under an agreement on oil and gas cooperation between the two countries signed when he visited Damascus earlier this month, Mr. Banbi told the official Syrian newspaper Al Baath. "The company will start work in Syria soon then it will shift to Egypt. It will be able to invest in any other Arab or foreign country," he said. He praised Syria's experience in exploring for oil and said Cairo had asked for Syrian experts to visit Egypt soon to help draw a plan for exploration activities in 1993.

## Israelis shell Lebanese villages

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Israeli gunners shelled Lebanese villages for the second day on Friday, security sources said. They said Israeli artillery inside the Jewish state's "security zone," pounded villages in the Iqlim Al Toufah area, a mountainous ridge 40 kilometres south of Beirut. The region is used by resistance forces to launch attacks on the 15-kilometre-deep strip in the south. There was no immediate report of casualties. Two civilians were wounded in similar shelling of Iqlim Al Toufah Thursday.

## Pakistani premier asks Rao to visit

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Friday he had invited Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to come to Pakistan on an official visit. "We will be too happy to receive him in Pakistan as the prime minister of India," Mr. Sharif told reporters at a reception marking Independence Day. He said he made the invitation to Mr. Rao during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June. The last Indian prime minister to visit Pakistan was Rajiv Gandhi in 1989.

## Afghan premier ends Iran visit

NICOSIA (R) — Afghanistan's interim prime minister, Ustad Fareed, left Iran on Friday after a four-day visit saying he hoped Tehran would make further efforts to reunite warring Mujahadeen factions in Kabul. Mr. Fareed, in remarks quoted by Tehran Radio, also expressed appreciation for the help Iran had given to Afghan refugees over the years. "We hope that Iran makes further efforts towards the unity of the Afghan Mujahadeen groups and resolving their disputes," he said, according to a report on the radio. Mr. Fareed is a senior commander in the hard-line Hezb-e-Islami group of fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

## Cyprus talks recess

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Talks on reunifying the divided island of Cyprus were recessed on Friday after several weeks and are expected to resume at a date that has not yet been set, according to a Cypriot source. An official U.N. announcement was expected later in the day. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali was believed to wish to consult Security Council members, who have been closely following the negotiations involving Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rafik Denktash. The talks, which included a session from June 18 to 23, have continued without a break since resuming on July 15. Mr. Vassiliou and Mr. Denktash have spent most of the time in separate meetings with Dr. Ghali and his senior aides. But daily meetings between the two Cypriot leaders in the presence of the secretary-general began on Wednesday, indicating some progress had been made. The talks recessed on Friday after a brief joint session which lasted less than 30 minutes, the source said. These were the last substantive meetings between Mr. Vassiliou and Mr. Denktash since their last attempt to resolve the Cyprus problem under U.N. auspices collapsed in March 1990.

## Bush reelection camp gets a boost with Baker moving in

### But views conflict in Amman over course of Middle East peace process

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — As the Republican camp appeared to be relieved over the appointment of Secretary of State James Baker as head of the Bush reelection campaign, views conflicted in Amman over the course of the Middle East peace process in the absence of an active role for the man who engineered and launched it. Some analysts said Mr. Baker's transfer from the State Department to the White House and his preoccupation with ensuring the best chances for George Bush to be reelected (see page 8) could slow down the Arab-Israeli peace process. Others said Mr. Baker's new position as White House chief of staff could still provide him with a strong say in Arab-Israeli peace-making. Mr. Baker's new post "will have the same if not more influence due to his closeness to the centre of decision-making, particularly President Bush," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said. Mr. Baker "is personally interested" in the Middle East peace process and his transfer

from the State Department will not affect the process since "he will keep a close eye" on Arab-Israeli negotiations, which will now be conducted under the supervision of Mr. Baker's successor, Lawrence Eagleburger, the minister said. But others disagreed. They said Mr. Baker faces the mammoth task of reviving Mr. Bush's popularity and pushing him into the lead in the presidential race and this would seriously curtail his involvement in the peace process. Mr. Baker was named White House chief of staff Thursday. He will take up his new task Aug. 23, a day before the sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks resume in the U.S. capital. Deputy Secretary of State Eagleburger will serve as acting secretary of state. Jordanian newspapers said Mr. Baker's shift could have serious repercussions on the peace-making process. "The move underlines that the peace process has ebbed from Washington's scale of priorities," said the Al Shaab newspaper. It said: "We expect that the peace talks will be deadlocked." Al Rai said the move underscored that Mr. Bush's reelection

campaign is troubled and warned that the American leader might use the peace process for personal gains. "We call on Arab parties to affirm to the Americans that the peace process deserves to be supported because of its noble goals and should not be used as a mechanism for President Bush to lean on to stay in the White House for another four years," Al Rai said. Both Al Shaab and Al Rai called on the Arabs to postpone negotiations with Israel until after the U.S. elections "to avert possible U.S. pressures on the Arabs for concessions to the benefit of Israel in order to please Jewish voters in the United States." A Russian Foreign Ministry official said Friday the resignation of Mr. Baker will have no impact on the Middle East peace process, despite his "great contribution" in negotiations. "I believe that even though he will be very busy with his new job, he will continue to contribute to the Middle East peace process," said Viktor Posovinski, head of the Foreign Ministry's Africa and Middle East Department. "Mr. Baker has made a great



James Baker

contribution towards getting the negotiating process off the ground and maintaining the momentum for talks, especially of late," Mr. Posovinski said. "I don't believe there will be any impact." "This is one area where we (the United States and Russia) have gone a long way and we've accumulated some experience, and we also believe that we've got very good prospects for cooperation," Mr. Posovinski said. Mr. Posovinski also announced that Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev would meet in Moscow on Aug. 20 with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in a session arranged at Israel's request. In the U.S., worried Republicans are leaving a sigh of relief after Mr. Bush named Mr. Baker, but Democrats predicted the

(Continued on page 2)

## Rabin: Bush understands freeze on settlement will not be total

Israeli premier sees Palestinian elections next year

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — In a defence against hardline critics, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday that his government did not freeze construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and is completing 11,000 units there. "Even with the cancellation of another 6,000 to 7,000 units, I don't remember such a period of construction," Mr. Rabin told a news conference after returning from a week-long visit to the United States. However, Mr. Rabin added that a government under his leadership would not have started such massive construction. The 11,000 units were begun by the previous hardline government of Yitzhak Shamir. Mr. Rabin's Labour Party defeated the Likud party of Mr. Shamir in June elections. Mr. Rabin said in his meeting with President George Bush, the American leader understood that the settlement freeze was not total and some construction in the occupied territories would continue. "The president showed under-

standing to the problems that we inherited from the former government, for example. That there will be a continuation of building of between 10,000 to 11,000 housing units in the (occupied) territories," Rabin said. Mr. Rabin emphasised his curbs on Jewish settlement while in Washington in order to secure U.S. loan guarantees worth \$10 billion. He played down the curbs on his return in an apparent attempt to defuse right-wing criticism. Mr. Rabin was euphoric about new relations with Washington. "You felt that change in atmosphere towards Israel on the street in the administration and in Congress," he told the airport news conference. "I hope this is a good beginning in a new chapter in relations between us and United States." Asked if he and Mr. Bush differed over definitions of a settlement "freeze," Mr. Rabin replied: "I don't know what you mean when you talk about freezing settlement if one talks about continued building on 11,000 housing

units in the occupied territories." Mr. Rabin stopped plans to build what his labour administration calls "political settlements" after winning a general election in June. The curbs did not cover Jerusalem and border settlements. Mr. Rabin would not say if Mr. Bush, who has long called all settlement an obstacle to peace, accepted his new policy. "I made sure there were no misunderstandings. I did not try to hide anything," Mr. Rabin said. An aide said Mr. Rabin had not made any secret agreements with Mr. Bush to further curb settlement. The settlements are a key issue in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks which are to resume Aug. 24 in Washington as well as in relations with Washington, which considers the settlements an obstacle to peace. It was not clear under which conditions Mr. Bush approved the guarantees. Israeli reports said Mr. Bush disagreed with Mr. (Continued on page 2)

## Libya voices 'deep regret' over extension of sanction

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Libya, showing no sign of willingness to hand over two suspects in the Lockerbie affair, has expressed "deep regret" over a U.N. Security Council decision on Wednesday to retain air and arms sanctions. "These unjust sanctions led to many tragedies inflicted upon the Libyan people from deaths of children, old people and women, a deterioration in the standard of living and a slowdown in the development process," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the official Libyan news agency IANA Thursday. "It has led to the imprisonment of an entire population."

The Security Council said it retained the air and arms ban imposed in April because Libya had failed to hand over two suspects accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner. "There was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for modification of the measures of sanctions," Security Council President Li Daoyu of China said on Wednesday after the first review of the four-month-old ban. "The victim was identified as Abdul Khader Ismail from the village of Qabatia. Israeli Radio said he was active in the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement. Arab reports said some 2,000 people attended his funeral on Thursday night. Shops in Qabatia and the nearby town of Jemini were closed Friday in mourning. Israeli forces found murdered near the occupied Gaza Strip were probably the victims of Palestinian violence, Israel Television said Thursday. Meanwhile, a Gaza fisherman was found shot to death on Thursday morning, the Israeli army reported. Israel Television quoted police as saying that Emmanuel Meir, 52, and Jalette Alfasi, 45, had been dead almost three weeks before an amateur game-hunter stumbled across their rotting bodies in an overturned car in a wood on Wednesday. Police originally suspected a romantic motive as Mr. Meir, a married fireman, and Ms. Alfasi, a divorced housewife, were known to be lovers. But a coroner's report showed the two had been repeatedly bludgeoned by at least two people and that Ms. Alfasi had been sexually assaulted, Israel Television said.

(Continued on page 2)

## Falange to boycott polls

BEIRUT (R) — The right-wing Christian Falange Party said on Friday it was joining other Christian groups in boycotting Lebanon's first general elections in 20 years until after a Syrian troop withdrawal from Beirut and other areas. The decision, announced by party leader George Saadeh, dealt a heavy blow to the government of President Elias Hrawi. "I am pleased to announce that the party has decided unanimously not to participate in the elections. I ask all Falangist candidates to withdraw their candidacy," Mr. Saadeh told a news conference after a marathon political meeting. He said his party would pursue its efforts to convince Mr. Hrawi's government that the election, scheduled to start on Aug. 23, should be postponed. The other Christian groups which decided to boycott the polls are the Lebanese Forces

(LF) led by Samir Geagea, followers of exiled General Michel Aoun, the National Liberal Party (NLP) of Dori Chamoun and the National Bloc of self-exiled Raymond Edde. Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir also opposes the election. The Christians want the election postponed until after the expected pullout of Syrian troops from Beirut and outlying towns in September as agreed in a peace pact that ended 15 years of civil war in 1975. They say that an election under Syrian control would ensure the success of candidates loyal to Damascus which already orchestrates Lebanon's political, military and foreign policies under a treaty of cooperation. About 700,000 Christian voters of Lebanon's estimated two million voters live in areas under Christian control. Most of them would heed the boycott.

## Saddam confirms traders were executed for profiteering

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein has confirmed merchants were executed for profiteering and hoarding and told Iraqis they did not deserve sympathy for being rounded up from their homes. Speaking to officials in Babylon province on Thursday, President Saddam elaborated on his plan of action announced on Wednesday to tackle some of the dire economic problems created by a third year of U.N. sanctions. "The poor should know exactly what their interests are and shouldn't side with the rich," the Iraqi News Agency quoted him as saying in the rich, "the Iraqi News Agency quoted him as saying in the provincial capital of Hilla, south of Baghdad. "Some of the poor even sympathise with traders who exploit them. The same poor people before the execution of the traders were crying and shouting against the traders, asking 'where is the state to protect us?'"

"Make the poor know exactly what they want and they should stick to their rights," he told provincial officials. It was the first direct official confirmation that alleged profiteers had been executed. Diplomats said 600 merchants were rounded up in a crackdown that started on July 25. They said 42 had been executed. Merchants who fled Iraq during the crackdown and diplomats said the families of the executed traders were barred from public mourning. They reported fights between mourners and security men at a funeral in Al Kadhimiya just north of Baghdad. President Saddam declared war on Wednesday on profiteers, middlemen and incompetent officials, promising "stringent measures." He said in Hilla that people had criticised the government for seizing one executed trader from his home. "Where else should the gov-

ernment bring him from to be punished? Isn't it the right of the police and the law to take any person from his home if he is charged with any crime?" President Saddam also said he had told the cabinet he would no longer listen to generalities from ministers. He said they should give figures to prove their ministries were performing well. He said he had heard U.S. officials wanted to install a new Iraqi leader who was well-liked by the people and had a good military record and other positive qualities. "Such a man is just like one of us," INA quoted the president as saying. "Any person with these good qualities is an important element in our march towards progress and prosperity." Baghdad Radio said Friday Iraqi farmers have been given just two weeks to bring their wheat and barely crops to government silos or face punishment.

## Sudanese boys said to disappear

NAIROBI (AP) — U.N. officials said Friday they are "very upset" that they cannot account for up to 3,000 Sudanese boys who were being moved to a Kenya refugee camp after years of wandering in search of safety. One U.N. official said the boys may have been lured back to their homeland by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been waging a nine-year civil war in southern Sudan. But another suggested they had simply been miscounted. The children were among 12,000 boys who crossed into Kenya with 10,500 other refugees May 29 and were being cared for at a camp near the border village of Lokichoggio. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Nairobi began moving the boys on July 25 to a new camp at Kakuma, further south from the border. "We noticed that the final number arriving at Kakuma was far less than the number departing Lokichoggio," said Fanoos Mounmtzis, a spokesman for the U.N. refugee programme in Nairobi. "We think there might be as many as 3,000 missing, but we're not sure," Mr. Mounmtzis said. "We have sent an officer to the area to investigate."

## Kabul says rebels repulsed, but braces for new assault

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghanistan's Islamic government said Friday it had repulsed a violent assault on the capital by renegade rebels loyal to firebrand fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. But General Majid Khan told reporters he anticipated another round of fighting as Mr. Hekmatyar's forces prepared to make another bid for the battle-weary capital. "He will try again. But we won't let him," said Gen. Khan, without elaborating how government soldiers proposed stopping him. After more than a week of relentless rocketing, the capital was quiet Friday. But the bloodletting injured hundreds of people and left no water or electricity and meager medical supplies. Gen. Khan, a member of a commando-style militia revived by Mr. Hekmatyar as communist traitors, said the airport in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif was accepting international flights flying in humanitarian aid or evacuating foreign diplomats stranded in Kabul. Evacuated diplomats would have to travel the 300 kilometres to Mazar-e-Sharif by land. "But we will guarantee their safety," Gen. Khan said. Mr. Hekmatyar's rebels closed Kabul's combined civilian and military airport, accusing the militia commander, Gen. Kashed Dostum, of using it to reinforce

his troops in Kabul from his headquarters in Mazar-e-Sharif. Gen. Khan said the Kabul airport is closed only to civilian traffic. "Military planes are taking off regularly," he said. No one seemed to know whether the lull in fighting Friday was linked to an offer Thursday by Mr. Hekmatyar of a ceasefire long enough to evacuate diplomats from Kabul. Mr. Hekmatyar's ceasefire offer included several harsh preconditions, which Defence Ministry officials rejected. Bomber planes of the government carried out only a few brief raids in the morning on positions of Mr. Hekmatyar, Mujahadeen sources in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar said. "Hekmatyar's forces have suffered heavy losses in the Bakhak, Kamari and Shina areas of Kabul, and are fleeing," Kabul Radio quoted an army source as saying. Government troops have captured heavy weapons, tanks and ammunition from the rebel Mujahadeen, the radio said. Fighters based in a Kabul school had been forced to retreat. Residents ventured onto the streets to take advantage of the lull in the shelling and said the unusual rocket silence appeared to back up the government claim it had put the Hezb-e-Islami to flight.

## U.N. arms team back in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A U.N. arms team returned to Baghdad on Friday after three days hunting for Iraq's military secrets outside the city and said everything was going to plan. "It was normal inspection activities," U.N. team leader Nikita Smidovich told reporters after returning to his Baghdad hotel. "All is going according to our plans." He refused to disclose which sites were inspected by the team, which Iraq says will be barred from any government ministries if it tries to search them. Asked whether the team worked under heavy Iraqi guard, Mr. Smidovich said: "Yes, security was provided." He added that Iraqi security men filmed the inspections, which was a standard operating procedure for U.N. inspectors. "We are not disclosing our findings until we analyse the results," added Mr. Smidovich, the first Russian to head a U.N. arms inspection team in Iraq. Mr. Smidovich said his 22-member team, which arrived in Iraq a week ago and left Baghdad last Tuesday, would stay on until next Monday or Tuesday. The 22-member multinational team appears to have averted confrontation with the Iraqi government during the week they have been in the country. According to schedule from the Bahrain-based regional office of the overseeing U.N. special commission, the team still has two more days of work on Saturday and Sunday before exiting the Iraqi capital on Monday. Mr. Smidovich has maintained an unusual tight lip on the sites he has selected on his hunt for traces of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and it has remained a secret of the commission and the Iraqi government as to whether he has tried to enter government ministries or other sites that might upset the Iraqis. He has conducted two separate days of field work either inside Baghdad or within its vicinity before setting off Tuesday morning for the three-day trip. The Iraqis had served notice as the team was assembling in Bahrain that it would not be allowed to enter ministry headquarters. Mr. Smidovich has said his team would be hunting for remains of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes, and particularly long-range Scud missiles. The commission estimates scores of those missiles remain unaccounted for.

## U.N. ends Somalia assessment mission

NAIROBI (Agencies) — A U.N. technical team drawing up emergency relief plans for famine-stricken Somalia spent its final working day in the country on Friday as the world body prepared to send troops to protect aid shipments. Aid sources contacted in Mogadishu said the 31-member team had arrived in the devastated capital to round off a nine-day nationwide sweep to find ways of easing what relief and disaster experts call the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The team, they added, had met self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, whose bloody feud with rival warlord General Mohamed Farah Aideded pushed Somalia to the edge of disintegration before the U.N. brokered a shaky ceasefire a few months ago. Clans that united to drive out dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991 turned on one another. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed and maimed in the bloodletting. Now some 4.5 million people face death by starvation and a

sixth of the seven-million population are refugees, (see page 2). Aid workers say at least one person is starving to death every minute while heavily-armed fighters from rival militias snatch all the food they can. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali intends to send 500 soldiers and officers from Pakistan to guard humanitarian relief convoys for Somalia, U.N. officials said. Nadia Youmes, spokeswoman for the secretary-general, said Dr. Ghali hopes "to proceed with deployment as soon as possible. But at a daily news briefing the could not give a date." The Security Council has authorised the 500-man security force in principle, pending agreement from the parties in Somalia. However, the force was not authorised under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter which provides for military action, as is the case for protecting food shipments in Bosnia. Also, because of their humanitarian mission, the soldiers for Somalia are not technically considered peacekeepers.

On Wednesday Gen. Aideded, who long had opposed the U.N. military force as an intrusion, finally gave his assent to deployment. Ms. Youmes said she believed a new Security Council resolution would not be required for the deployment and that it could be authorised through an exchange of letters between the secretary-general and the council president, Ambassador Li Daoyu of China. The council already has been informed in a letter about Pakistan's willingness to contribute troops. The cost of the operation was not known and the General Assembly committee which handles finances was expected to review the situation. U.S. President George Bush on Thursday asked the Pentagon to offer transport to the United Nations and a U.N. official said it was accepted. Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the U.S. offer would shorten the period of deployment for the troops, who are expected to go to the Horn of Africa country within two weeks.



## Britain orders out Iranian diplomat

LONDON (R) — Britain has ordered the expulsion of an Iranian diplomat in retaliation for Iran's expulsion of a British envoy in Tehran, British officials said on Friday.

The officials said Iran's charge d'affaires was called in to the Foreign Office on Aug. 4 and told that an Iranian diplomat, Ali Rajavi, had three weeks to leave the country.

The expulsion had not previously been made public. The move was in response to Iran's expulsion of British diplomat Geoffrey Brammer. That order was issued in July and Mr. Brammer is now back in Britain. Mr. Rajavi has not yet left the country, the officials said.

"We asked the Iranian charge to call on senior officials on Aug. 4 and he was told an Iranian diplomat had three weeks to leave," one official said in response to a question. "At the time of Brammer's expulsion we made it clear we retained the right to ask one of our diplomats to be withdrawn," the official said.

Britain had delivered a strong protest to Iran after Mr. Brammer, a third secretary at Britain's Tehran embassy, was arrested by security officials in Tehran on June 17 and detained for several hours.

Iran later ordered Mr. Brammer to be expelled accusing him of being a spy.

Late last month, Britain ordered the expulsion of three Iranian citizens — none of them diplomats — accused of unspecified intelligence activities but denied that this was in any way related to the Brammer affair.

It was later believed they were linked to a plot to kill British author Salman Rushdie. Britain and Iran restored diplomatic relations in September 1990 after an 18-month break over an Iranian death order issued against Mr. Rushdie for his novel, "The Satanic Verses," which Tehran had denounced as insulting to Islam.

Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding under police protection since the February 1989 death order issued by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The decree was reaffirmed last month by Iran's parliament.

## Nablus gets newspaper, a first in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The West Bank's largest city, Nablus, has gotten its first newspaper, a weekly given a publishing licence by the Israeli military government in the improved climate for peace.

The 12-page tabloid, published by a Palestinian once jailed by Israel, is believed to be the first paper "legally" printed in the occupied West Bank, except for a few newspapers financed by Israel as propaganda ploys in the past.

"The Arab-Israeli peace talks are changing the atmosphere in the region," said publisher and editor Zuhair Debi, explaining why a newspaper was being allowed in Nablus, a city of 120,000 population.

Mr. Debi said Friday that he printed 3,000 copies of the first edition last week and managed to sell 2,000. The second edition came out Friday. The paper sells for one Israeli shekel (about 40 U.S. cents).

Elise Shazar, spokeswoman for the military government, said granting newspaper licences went along with the recent Israeli policy of also giving approval for new Palestinian factories in the occupied territories.

"It is part of our policy of normalisation since last year to consider requests for local newspapers in the West Bank," she said.

She noted that licences have been given to two other as yet unpublished Palestinian newspapers in Ramallah and Hebron.

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Like the four Arabic newspapers in Jerusalem, Mr. Debi's paper must be submitted to Israel's military censor.

The new publication has caused some pride in Nablus. Adnan Hazzallah, a 29-year-old factory worker, bought the paper Friday and pointed to pictures taken in the city.

"This is ours. This is Nablus," he said.

The new weekly, called "Nablus," has on its masthead a drawing of the city's old mosque with four minarets and a Turkish sultan's watch.

Nablus was a major trading centre during the Ottoman Turkish rule over Palestine before World War I. Some Palestinians now call Nablus the capital of the intifada.

The newspaper carries mostly local, non-political news, with pictures of Nablus residents and city scenes. But it also published a debate on democracy between supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Debi was jailed for seven years in the 1970s for an attack on an Israeli bus. He was granted a licence under the standards set by Jordanian law.

Israel applies a combination of Ottoman, Egyptian, Jordanian law and Israeli military regulations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Debi said he financed the paper from his earnings as a journalist for Israeli, Arab and foreign newspapers and agencies, including the Associated Press. He hopes the newspaper can help solve Nablus' problems and eventually make a profit, Mr. Debi said.

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## Sharon may be investigated, says Israeli minister

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shaleh said on Thursday allegations that former Housing Minister Ariel Sharon's diverted government funds to Jewish settlers in Arab East Jerusalem may be the subject of criminal investigation.

Treasury sources have said that in recent years the headline Sharon diverted monies from a special fund earmarked for the needy to settlers committed to moving into established Arab neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem.

"We will check the conclusions of the (investigative) committee, how the money was taken out and how the purchases were made. We will check this also from other aspects, including police," Mr. Shaleh told reporters on a tour of East Jerusalem.

Asked if a criminal investigation

was possible, he said: "Absolutely, yes."

He added: "I have much doubt whether ministers in the (previous) government... knew at all what the former housing minister did."

An angry Sharon said all the purchases were fully legal. "This leftist government has proven once again that its anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish activities know no bounds," he told Israel Radio.

"Shaleh apparently needs to be reminded that he is not a representative of PLO chief Yasser Arafat, whose goals he is trying to fulfil."

Israel's housing ministry said this week it had stopped buying houses for Jews in East Jerusalem pending review.



ISRAELI ARABS PROTEST: Heads of Arab council and Islamic activists stage a demonstration outside the Yugoslav embassy in Tel Aviv against atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina

## Pentagon tracking illnesses in Gulf war soldiers

WASHINGTON (R) — The Defence Department is studying a variety of mysterious ailments reported by U.S. soldiers of the Gulf war including problems allegedly linked to oil fires in Kuwait, a Pentagon spokesman said on Thursday.

The studies focus on more than 100 soldiers who reported a range of ailments including fatigue, joint pains, skin rashes, headaches, loss of memory, mood changes, diarrhoea, bleeding and painful gums and loss of hair, according to Defence Department reports.

Spokesman Bob Hall told reporters the Pentagon was taking a two-track approach to the problem, first studying those soldiers who have reported symptoms and also compiling a registry of which soldiers were stationed at various locations during the war, to see if there is any geographic pattern to the illnesses.

In one study released on June 15, Defence Department doctors examined 79 members of the 123rd Army Reserve Command who reported a wide variety of symptoms but found "no evidence of an outbreak of cluster of any unique disease process."

The June study found that the kinds of symptoms might indicate stress-related disorders among Gulf war soldiers.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel appoints ambassador to India

TEL AVIV (AP) — Ephraim Doweik, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, has been named the country's first ambassador to India, the foreign ministry said Friday. Israel established diplomatic ties with India in January but has not yet sent an ambassador. The ministry did not say when Mr. Doweik would move to New Delhi. He has been ambassador to Egypt for two years.

### Polisario names new envoy to Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for an independent state in the Western Sahara have named a new ambassador to Algeria, their main backer, following the defection of the previous holder of the job. Mohammed Lamine Ahmad, a former prime minister of Polisario's self-proclaimed republic in the former Spanish colony, would take over from Ibrahim Hakim, the highest-ranking Polisario member to defect, said in Rabat on Wednesday a U.N. plan to solve the 17-year desert conflict was deadlocked and a solution must be found inside Morocco. The U.N. plan for a referendum to decide whether Western Saharans want to be independent or part of Morocco has been stalled for nearly a year by a dispute over who can vote. Polisario proclaimed its self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) in 1976 when it began fighting for independence. Mr. Hakim was SADR foreign minister for 10 years and until Tuesday the group's ambassador in Algiers. Moroccan officials say more than 1,000 others have defected. Mr. Ahmad is a member of Polisario's top decision-making body, the 53-member national secretariat, which was elected at a congress in June last year.

### Iranian executed for spying, sexual offences

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian doctor has been executed for sodomy, adultery and spying for the United States, a Tehran newspaper said on Thursday. Jomhuri Islami said Dr. Ali Moazzarian had pleaded guilty to all charges during trial in the southern city of Shiraz. It said Dr. Moazzarian provided intelligence to U.S. embassies on trips to Canada and the United Arab Emirates. He was also convicted of spying for Iraq and Saudi Arabia during the Iran-Iraq war of 1980 to 1988.

### Ukraine appeals for return of POWs

KIEV (R) — Ukraine has appealed to Afghan President Burhamuddin Rabbani to provide information on the fate of 80 Ukrainians who were missing in Afghanistan while serving with the Soviet army. Prime Minister Vitold Fokin said a total of 3,280 Ukrainians had died during 10 years of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan from 1979. He urged the Afghan leader, as a gesture of goodwill, to provide the remaining prisoners of war (POWs) with the choice of returning home or settling elsewhere. "We hope that with your help, the problem will be resolved from a humanitarian standpoint in the interests of Ukrainian citizens who were sent to your country against their will," Dr. Fokin said in an appeal to Mr. Rabbani.

### Rebel Kurds kill three Turkish soldiers

ANKARA (R) — Separatist rebel Kurds killed three Turkish soldiers in a clash near the Iraqi border, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said Friday. The soldiers died when guerrillas of outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) opened fire on a military patrol near Cukurca border town in Hakkari province on Wednesday, officials told the agency. The PKK's eight-year-old armed fight for an independent state in southeastern Turkey has claimed nearly 4,400 lives.

### Ben Ali promises reforms for women

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali has announced the creation of a government department responsible for women's and family affairs and appointed women to several senior jobs. Speaking at a ceremony to mark National Women's Day on Thursday, Mr. Ben Ali also said laws would be amended to give equality to men and women. He said Tunisian women married to foreigners would be allowed to obtain Tunisian nationality for their children if their husbands consented, and a fund would be set up to pay pensions to divorced women. Tunisia outlawed polygamy 36 years ago, the only Arab country to do so. Mr. Ben Ali was accompanied at the ceremony by his wife Leyla for the first time since he took the presidency in 1987.

## Bush election camp gets a boost

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. presidential campaign would take an even dirtier tone. Public opinion polls continued to show Democratic candidate Bill Clinton with a commanding lead over Mr. Bush in the run-up to the Nov. 3 election.

A poll issued on Thursday by CNN-USA Today-Gallup found Mr. Clinton leading Mr. Bush by 56 to 37 per cent in a survey that had a margin of error of three percentage points.

Mr. Clinton has been as much as 35 points ahead of Mr. Bush in some polls since last month's Democratic national convention, although the gap seems to be narrowing as the Republicans prepare for their national convention in Houston next week.

Mr. Baker will oversee both the White House and the campaign effort with the goal of bringing coordination and vision to both.

"The mood here is euphoric," said one senior Bush administration official of the change, which was accompanied by a wholesale overhaul of the White House inner circle.

"The real campaign is going to get going now," he said. "The

man knows how to work with people and get things done. We haven't gotten a lot done lately."

Vin Weber, an influential Republican member of Congress, welcomed the Baker move as a realistic step. "It's an admission that we have an uphill campaign in the fall but it's a sign that we're not going to take it lying down."

"There's no miracles to be worked, but I think you'll find that the whole team will pull together now because there's one person in charge," Mr. Weber told reporters in Houston.

But the Democrats, seeking to retake the White House after 12 years out of power, were far less enthusiastic about the return of a rival who has been engineered so many of their past White House defeats.

Mr. Clinton, in California, called Mr. Baker "a very able politician" but said the tone of the campaign was likely to turn more hostile.

"I think it'll still be very negative," Mr. Clinton said. "But it will be more cleverly negative." Al Gore, the Democratic vice-presidential nominee, said the Republican shake-up shows Mr. Bush and Vice-President Dan Quayle "are in a state of political panic."

## Rabin: Settlement freeze not total

(Continued from page 1)

Rabin's distinction between "political" and "security" settlements.

On Friday, Mr. Rabin told reporters that he also won pledges from American Jews for an additional \$70 million for immigrant absorption.

Mr. Rabin said Friday he told U.S. leaders progress in the talks could come if the Arabs change some of their positions and if Israel shows more flexibility in its views.

Earlier Friday, Jewish settlers lashed out at Mr. Rabin for saying that political settlements were so marginal to Israel's "security" that Iraq would not waste a missile on them.

Interviewed on U.S. television, Thursday, Mr. Rabin was asked if Israel had agreed that "the sum of the guarantees would be reduced by the amount of new settlements in the occupied territories."

Mr. Rabin answered affirmatively to the question.

## Libya expresses 'deep regret'

(Continued from page 1)

JANA said the Foreign Ministry "expresses its deep regret over this extension because Libya, despite its innocence, has agreed to cooperate to implement the (Security Council's) resolution and has taken several steps" in that direction.

"Libya will prove its innocence and will seek compensation for the losses and damages," the statement said.

A semi-official Egyptian newspaper reported on Thursday that Libyan leaders still oppose extraditing the suspects and believe they can weather the storm of Western pressure.

The editor of Al Akram, Ibrahim Nafel, who accompanied Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on a trip to Libya on Tuesday, said Libyan leaders believed extraditing them to face trial outside Libya was "a red line which Libya cannot cross."

Libya has given Britain new information on its links with Irish guerrillas, a British embassy spokesman said on Friday.

The spokesman declined to give further details or say when the meeting took place but he said a Libyan representative had handed over information Britain requested last month and it would be passed to London.

## One-sixth of Somalia's population now refugees

NAIROBI (AP) — As drought tightens its noose on Somalia, hundreds of thousands are escaping possible starvation by fleeing to refugee camps in neighbouring countries, where many die anyway.

About one million people — or nearly one-sixth of Somalia's estimated population — have fled the Horn of Africa country since rebels ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991.

More than 300,000 Somalis have crossed into Kenya, about 500,000 to Ethiopia and 15,000 to Djibouti. Another 65,000 sailed in rickety boats across the Red Sea to Yemen.

About 100,000 of the weak, thin ones have gone to Europe, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Nairobi.

The flow has increased over recent months as the famine has worsened. Tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of Somalis have died and millions more are threatened. Continuing clan warfare in Somalia's southwest also has spurred the exodus, particularly into Kenya.

Last week, an estimated 2,000 people crossed into Kenya daily, according to Panos Moutzitis of the UNHCR.

The influx has put a heavy burden on cash-strapped and drought-stricken Kenya, which housed fewer than 15,000 refugees in 1990.

Now, it is bracing for a possible refugee population of one million by early next year, said Mr. Moutzitis.

"It is difficult for Kenya to absorb so many people," he said. "The influx is so heavy that in effect we have to create a new town for 30,000 unemployed totally dependent people every 30 days. New camps."

Mr. Moutzitis said refugees were being fed only half to two-thirds normal rations because the international community, which only recently woke up to Somalia's plight, has responded slowly to the refugee problem with funds.

Most refugees walk hundreds of kilometres, some for as many as 90 days, with little food and water, reaching the camps malnourished and weak. Untold numbers die along the way. Scores die in the camps daily.

Others pay 350,000 Somali shillings, the equivalent of \$50 to board overcrowded, unsafe, wooden vessels called dhows, and sail south for Kenya's coast or east to the shores of Yemen. Many boats have sunk, drowning hundreds.

Sail others take advantage of a new "refugee" bus service, organised by enterprising Somalis, which shuttles between Somalia's southern port city of Kismayo and the western border town of Liboi.

The trip also costs 350,000 Somali shillings and takes two days, at times passing through war zones, before reaching the camps.

Few can afford the trip. During better times, when Somalia had a working economy, transportation and telecommunication services and

the semblance of a government under Mr. Siad Barre, the average monthly salary was less than \$30.

In the 18 months of the country's collapse, people have had to use their savings for food. And apart from the thriving market in Khat, a hallucinogenic twig widely popular in Somalia, banditry and looting, there are few opportunities for making money.

One woman, desperate to leave Somalia after her husband was killed in fighting and four of her eight children starved to death, spent months in Kismayo where she and her four surviving children sold cigarettes to raise the fare.

Mr. Moutzitis spoke to her during a recent trip to the border camp at Liboi.

"She said she originally went to Kismayo to get food from relief agencies there, but that with no way to protect herself and looters took everything," said Mr. Moutzitis. "The situation in Somalia is very bad. I don't think it's going to get any better."

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**PROGRAMME TWO**  
18:00 Des petites histoires presque vries  
18:10 Les Tortues Ninja  
18:30 La Gymnastique  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Fosters  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Super Blooper  
21:00 Encounter  
21:30 Varieties  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Feature Film: "Things Change"

**PRAYER TIMES**  
04:30 Fajr  
05:30 Sunrise (Summer) Doha  
12:01 Dhuhr  
16:20 Asr  
19:27 Maghrib  
20:59 Isha

**CHURCHES**  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 830740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661257  
Terrence Church Tel. 622566  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 771351  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 628543  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephrem Church Tel. 771751  
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 649322  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will continue to be hot and windy with northerly moderate breeze. In Amman, winds will be southerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman 23 / 35  
Aqaba 26 / 40  
Deraia 21 / 40  
Jordan Valley 25 / 41

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35, Aqaba 40, Humidity readings

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

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**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Sawwneh 779997  
Dr. Salma Al Daboubi 776751  
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740  
Dr. Ahmad Debsi 791257  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy 778336  
Al Asra pharmacy 637055  
Nasrallah pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Simciyal pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mahmoud Saeed 776751  
Al Sheraa pharmacy 776751  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Mubashir Hijawi 773111  
Khatib pharmacy 965417

**EMERGENCIES**  
Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 660390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints 605800  
Police Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Complaints 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 623101  
Rajman 661101  
Abdullah Telephone Repair 773111  
Jordan Television 774111  
Radio Jordan 669100  
Water Authority 669100

**HOSPITALS**  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816  
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn 642412  
Jahid Amman Maternity 642962  
Madras, J. Amman 641646  
Palestine, Shamsi 661174  
Shamsi Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muhsen Hospital 6672279  
The Islamic, Amman 66612757  
Al-Ahli, Amman 661174  
Al-Ahli, Amman 7771013  
Al-Badri, J. Amman 77511126  
Army, Marla 89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital 66224050  
Amal Hospital 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)63323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)600560

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power 636881  
RJ Flight Information 06-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**  
**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)532005, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:15 Beirut (RJ)  
07:20 Damascus (RJ)  
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)  
12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
12:50 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
13:00 Cairo (RJ)  
13:05 London (RJ)  
13:10 Jeddah (RJ)  
13:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
13:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**  
06:55 Cyprus (CY)  
09:15 Beirut (RJ)  
12:30 Rome, Beirut (A2)  
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)  
21:30 Dubai (RJ)  
22:45 Dubai (RJ)  
23:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)

**MARKET PRICES**  
Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.  
Apples (red) 550 / 320  
Bananas 300 / 420  
Bananas (Minkamun) 580 / 380  
Beans 90 / 130  
Cabbages 230 / 200  
Carrots 240 / 180  
Cauliflowers 120 / 80  
Cucumbers (large) 230 / 180  
Cucumbers (small) 230 / 180  
Eggplants 90 / 130  
Garlic 550 / 450  
Lentils 600 / 500  
Marrows (large) 150 / 100  
Marrows (small) 320 / 160  
Onions (dry) 150 / 100  
Onions (green) 150 / 100  
Peas 600 / 500  
Pumpkins 600 / 300  
Peppers (hot) 220 / 140  
Peppers (sweet) 150 / 100  
Potatoes 180 / 120  
Sweet Melons 180 / 120  
Tomatoes 60 / 20  
Watermelons 60 / 20

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## Prince Hassan urges coordination to develop agriculture, other sectors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has urged authorities to help in the coordination and integration of the investment and the infrastructure sectors as well as health, educational and youth sectors to promote development in Jordan. Chairing a meeting at the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) attended by a number of cabinet ministers and officials, Prince Hassan stressed in particular coordination between agriculture and industry.

He noted that the agricultural sector needed to be developed in a comprehensive manner.

The Prince spoke after hearing Agriculture Minister Fayez Khawash present a paper on agricultural development in the Kingdom. The paper reviewed the agricultural situation, problems facing farmers and obstacles in the marketing of products, especially those encountered by farmers in the Jordan Valley region which produces most of the food crops.

The meeting reviewed the paper, and discussed effective measures to develop the agricultural sector in Jordan. Ministers of Water and Irrigation and Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment were present at the meeting along with the Ministers of Industry and Trade, Higher Education, Agriculture, Planning, Finance, Energy and Mineral Resources and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces. They are all members of the HCST board.

Before the meeting, Dr. Khawash met with the higher agricultural council to discuss stimulating the operation of processing plants owned by the government-run Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company JAMPCO. The council in a later statement stressed expanding the plants and establishing parallel processing plants by the private sector to complement JAMPCO's factories.

The statement also noted that the government was willing to sell its own agricultural processing plants now operated by JAMPCO, to the private sector, provided the measure would not lead to some kind of monopoly.



JPA looking for new headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) is seeking assistance from the Greater Amman Municipality for a piece of land for a JPA headquarters.

The request was presented by Mayor Mohammad Bashir at a meeting Thursday attended by JPA chairman and board members. Mr. Bashir paid tribute to the role of the Jordanian press in highlighting issues involving the municipality and its work and services to the residents of the capital.

Jordanian newspapers have been instrumental in promoting

the needs of Amman residents and also services offered them by their municipality. He stressed the need for bolstering the municipality's cooperation with JPA in all fields. JPA chairman Suleiman Al Qudah requested that the number of kiosks selling newspapers set up by JPA in Amman be increased adding that JPA was seeking an appropriate plot of land for its headquarters. The building will replace its current rented premises. The mayor said that these two requests will be duly examined by the municipal council and proper measures will be taken.

## Development, Employment Fund and Arabic academy draft laws endorsed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament has endorsed two draft laws on the Development and Employment Fund and the Jordan Academy of Arabic as referred by the Lower House.

The session, attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and cabinet members, discussed the Development and Employment Fund, endorsing it without any amendments.

The government created fund is to provide aid to low income groups, especially the unemployed, to help launch income-generating projects.

The fund offers soft and long-term loans to vocational training centre graduates and other craftsmen. Local societies and charitable organisations undertaking projects to help the needy also qualify for loans.

The fund draws its finances from the Jordanian treasury, public and private organisations, donations from local and international institutions and other sources.

The fund is governed by a board chaired by the Prime Minister whose members include the Ministers of Industry and Trade, Finance, Planning,

Labour, Agriculture, Social Development and Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment plus five representatives of the industrial, educational and agricultural sectors of the voluntary organisations.

The other draft endorsed without amendments by the Senate on Thursday was the Jordan Academy of Arabic law. Under the draft law, academy members must be more than 40 years old and should have offered distinguished services to the Arab language and Arabic studies.

A Royal decree must now be issued for the draft laws to become fully fledged laws.

## JSCEP hosts info seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) will host Monday a symposium on the working of an international network for environmental information.

The symposium is organised by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The symposium aims to brief participants on the work of the Nairobi-based environmental information network, and to provide an opportunity to discuss a number of issues on protecting the environment from pollution.

On Thursday, the JSCEP presented awards to winners of a competition on writing an environmental story. Taking part in the competition were a number of Jordanian and Arab writers. The competition is designed to encourage writing child-oriented environmental stories to promote environmental awareness. The winners were Intilaq Mohammad Ali, Iyad Mohammad Awad, Mahmoud Al Rajabi, Jihad Al Rajabi and Fayez Mahmoud Ibrahim.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of small paintings by Mohammad Samara at Baladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Photography exhibition by Siam Al Mufti at the Phoenix Art and Culture Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of children's books, stationery and handicrafts at the Greek Catholic Church in northern Marka.
- ★ Arabic book exhibition at the Orthodox Club.
- ★ Exhibition of stamps at the old Parliament Building, Jabal Amman.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian Artist Fayez Al Duweik at Alfa Art Gallery.

### LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Iraqi Women's Literary Movement" by Iraqi writer Latifa Al Dulaimi at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdal Hameed Shousan Foundation — 6 p.m.

### AL FUHEIS FESTIVAL

- ★ Seminar, in Arabic, on the life and works of Jordanian writer Ghaleb Halasa at Al Fuheis Plaza of Culture — 6 p.m.
- ★ Arabic poetry recital by Youssef Abdul Aziz, Taher Riyadi, Zakhar Abu Shayeb and Jirees Samawi at Al Fuheis Plaza of culture — 7 p.m.

## 200 youths from the region unite in a sign of solidarity

AMMAN (Petra) — Two hundred youths from 15 Arab countries are gathering in Jordan to participate in the Arab youth camp activities in Ajloun to be opened under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein today. The camp's two week activities will include social, sports, cultural and other programmes and seminars, in addition to visit to historic and touristic sites and other places of interest in Jordan. According to the Ministry of Youth, which is organising the event, youths, some who have already arrived, are from Jordan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria, Qatar, Bahrain Egypt, and other foreign countries.

In a statement, the ministry said the gathering was in harmony with the principles of the Kingdom and its leadership, aiming to serve the Arab nation's interests since the youths constitute the future of the Arab World. Minister of Youth Saleh Issa said on the eve of the event that the meeting of youths from around the Arab countries opens the door for a sharing of experiences and views that helps Arabs interact and coordinate their efforts towards serving their nation. It is an embodiment of unity among Arab countries at a time when the Arabs are facing critical circumstances, said the minister in describing the event.

## Stay cool! Heat wave to ride into Monday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The heat wave that has lasted for the past four days will continue until Monday with probably a slight drop in temperatures, according to the department of meteorology.

A department spokesman told the Jordan Times Friday that the heat wave, caused by very hot and dry winds from the Indian sub-continent via Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, has hit all parts of the Kingdom, raising temperatures from 33 celsius, the average in Jordan for August, to 38-42 degrees, depending on the region.

In Amman, temperatures ranged from 34 to 38 degrees celsius in the past days. Temperatures hit 42 in some parts of the Jordan Valley and 40 degrees in Agaba, noted the department official.

He said that temperatures expected for Saturday in Amman

will range between 35 and 37 degrees, dropping to 36 to 34 on Sunday — only to rise again Monday.

This is the most intense heat wave of the summer so far extensive that it is now affecting Turkey and Greece as well as other parts of central Europe, the official noted. Commenting on reports that 70 people were treated in hospital from sunstrokes, the official said that old and young people, particularly children who are moving from Amman and Salt to higher temperature areas like the desert of Ruwished near the Iraqi border or the Jordan Valley, can easily be affected by the heat and could suffer sunstroke after staying in the sun for less than half an hour.

Al Dostour daily Friday reported that 70 persons, most of them children, have been treated in hospitals around the country after suffering sunstrokes of varying degrees.

Quoting hospital sources the paper said that some of the patients were discharged but others are still being treated and monitored.

## Sudan discusses relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly Mohammad Ali Amin Khalifeh arrives here Saturday (today) at the head of a Sudanese parliamentary delegation on a several day visit to Jordan. Mr. Khalifeh and his delegation will meet with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat and senior Jordanian officials. Talks will focus on bilateral relations, particularly in the parliamentary field.

## Housing Crop. asks ministries to define needs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Corporation has recently sent out a questionnaire to all ministries and government departments, requesting them to define their needs of professional housing units over the next five years.

The questionnaire includes information on the number of units needed, the areas and financial allocations to be provided.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the corporation's director Youssef Hiyasat said the corporation had to send out these questionnaire because of its past experience with some departments, which welcome the idea first but later rejected it refusing to receive the housing units, which were constructed in work sites in Maan. The refusal of those departments had left a negative impact on the corporation's projects, Dr. Hiyasat said. He pointed out that the corporation will not look into any request before agreeing with the department on methods of settling financial costs.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### King sends congratulations' cables

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent three congratulatory cables to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, South Korean President Roh Tae Woo and Prince of Liechtenstein, congratulating them on their countries' national days and wishing them continued good health and happiness and their peoples further progress and prosperity.

### Children's workshop

AMMAN (Petra) — A specialised training workshop on children's programmes in radio and television started Thursday at Jordan Television Promises. The workshop is organised by Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, in cooperation with the British Thompson Corporation. The ten-day workshop aims at helping radio and television personnel on the preparation of innovative and useful child-oriented radio and TV programmes. JRTVC has embarked on the preparation of children's programme, with new style and new flavour and will transmit them in the next programme cycle, starting on Oct. 1.

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## English and French Language Teachers wanted

An English language teacher is wanted at Al-Farah School (Shmeisani, tel. 666912 near Tayki Hotel). A native speaker is preferable. Also we need a part-time French language teacher. Please call for appointments during office hours (8:30-2 p.m.)

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## Deputies in the wrong

THE PEOPLE'S deputies have made a big mistake. On Wednesday, in the course of debating the first several articles of the press and publications draft law, some honourable gentlemen sought to deprive journalists of one of their most basic rights: The right not to disclose the name of a source who requests anonymity. This is a serious blow to the practice of journalism. For although the deputies made this curtailment applicable only in a court of law and on matters related to national security the step is nevertheless a regression from even the current law.

The new article is bound, in the absence of proper definition of national security, to make any controversial story subject to easy litigation depending on the source of the story, the writer, the newspaper involved and the political party in power. It places a heavy burden on politicians, concerned citizens and journalists. Many politicians or informed citizens would have to think hard and long before revealing information that matters most to the public, and which the public should know. Journalists too would refrain from publishing stories or quoting "sources" lest they end up in court unjustifiably and unnecessarily.

But this article is not the only problem with the law. No less than a dozen other controversial articles make a mockery of the right of expression. It seems that because of their haste to pass the bill before the extraordinary parliamentary session ends on Aug. 20, the deputies are not according the draft law the attention it deserves. The honourable gentlemen do not seem to realise that once passed by Parliament, the law will be applicable in all kinds of political circumstances, in the future. On the point of disclosing sources in the interest of national security, for instance, the deputies should ask themselves whether in the case one particular party gains power in the future it might not want to prosecute a member of a rival group for revealing information the party in power considers, for political reasons, a matter of national security. That is why such an important law on basic freedoms and liberties should be immune to politicking. National security, like many expressions in the draft law, is an elastic concept. If the government or any other party still insists on its inclusion in the law it must be defined in detail. Better still national security and all other sacred principles should not be placed above the people's right to know or to be informed. The responsibility for protecting national security and for keeping state secrets should not be put solely on the shoulders of journalists or their sources. Nor should officials' failure to guard secrets be blamed on journalists.

With this in mind, we think it only proper and crucial for our deputies to reconsider what might be their biggest blunder in winning for the people their basic freedoms.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily commented on King Hussein's call on the Arabs to end their present differences, wake up to the realities of the modern age and try to join their forces in order to rebuild their unity in the face of the common challenges. Referring to the King's latest speech to the Royal War College, and his interview with the Monte Carlo Radio, the paper said that the Monarch's call was directed to all those concerned about the nation's future. There is no reason for these concerns not to rise up to the challenges and lead their nation towards strength, instead of weakness and to unity instead of the present divisions, said the paper. The speech was an open call to all Arabs to regain their dignity and to base their relations on mutual respect, tolerance and affection, instead of enmity and hostility, the paper continued. The Arabs, the paper said, should not be surprised if they find their enemies getting stronger, benefiting from the disarray in the Arab Nation's ranks and they should blame no one if they continue to be backward and lagging behind other nations. The paper echoed the King's call on the Arabs to pool their resources and shoulder the task of helping build a just new world order that can ensure national interests. The paper also called on the Jordanian people to retain and strengthen their national unity which, it said, should serve as a model for other Arab countries.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily discussed the ongoing meetings between Israeli and Palestinian personalities, voicing his apprehension that this could imply separate talks from the rest of the Arab parties involved in the conflict. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the Palestinians and the Israelis have been holding secret contacts in Arab capitals and foreign countries with the purpose of reaching a formula on the autonomy rule which the Palestinians hope would be a first step towards self-rule and independence. The writer said that while these contacts are harmless, one should stress that they should not be made to serve as a substitute for a joint Arab negotiating team that can discuss all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and safeguard the interests of all Arab parties as well as the Palestinians. The Israelis should not be allowed to exploit these secret contacts for their own benefit, and the Palestinians should let the other Arabs in the ongoing contacts, so that they would not fall into a trap, demanded the writer. He stressed that the Palestinians are duty-bound to uphold the Damascus Agreement of never allowing the Israelis to deal with Arab parties individually, but rather as a united front. The writer said there is need for the negotiations to embody all Palestinian factions, in addition to the other Arab parties, so that the settlement can be fair and lasting.

# Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation, compensation

By Pascal B. Karny

Article II of General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) dated December 11, 1948, stipulates the following: Resolves that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the governments or authorities responsible.

Resolution 194 was reaffirmed each year during the sessions of the General Assembly and each year the U.S. voted in favour of it. The same resolution established a Conciliation Commission (which eventually consisted of France, Turkey and the U.S.) whose function was, *inter alia*, "to facilitate the repatriation, resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation of the refugees and the payment of compensation."

At the outset, Israel participated in the meetings of the Conciliation Commission pending its admission as a member in the United Nations. But once it was admitted, it did not heed and refused to comply with the Conciliation Commission's requests regarding repatriation, the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestinian refugees and refused to abrogate the unjust Israel Absentee Property Law. This law authorised the expropriation and confiscation of the property of Palestinians who are, by the twist of the Law, considered absentees, even those

who moved from one village or town to another because of the fighting, but remained in Palestine, itself.

Thus the efforts of the United Nations to repatriate the Palestinian refugees or to protect their property left behind were defeated by Israeli intransigence.

On the other hand, Israel passed a law in 1950, called the Law of Return, by virtue of which every Jew in the world was granted potential citizenship, the right of residence and automatic acquisition of nationality on arrival in Israel. As a result of this law thousands of Jewish immigrants were settled in Israel and in the occupied Arab territories.

Now one of the main reasons why Israel refused to participate in the recent multilateral meetings in Canada, which was scheduled to deal with the refugees, including the Palestinian refugees problem, is that Israel wishes neither to repatriate them to their homes in Palestine nor to compensate them for their lost property and possessions as provided in the General Assembly Resolu-

tion 194 (III), mentioned above.

Israel alleges that it cannot absorb the Palestinian refugees wishing to return (although they are ready to live at peace with their neighbours, as required by the resolution and as the Arabs of Israel have been doing since 1948), but at the same time it can and accepts to absorb millions of Jewish immigrants from Russia, the independent states of the ex-Soviet Union and from anywhere in the world.

Regrettably, the U.S. had not, during the years since the issue of Resolution 194, pressured Israel for the repatriation of Palestinian refugees, not even on humanitarian grounds, as it is zealously willing to help with the immigration of millions of Jews to Israel by granting the latter a loan guarantee of billions of dollars.

State Department spokesman said lately that the implementation of Resolution 194 is a matter for negotiation between Israel and the Palestinians. But Article 11 of the resolution is imperative as it uses the word "should" and must, therefore, be enforced by the U.S. in conjunction with other United Nations members. To regain real respect and credibility, the United Nations should not be selective by enforcing its resolutions on one state and discard them with respect to another.

Some Israeli or Jewish writers are now calling for compensating

the Jews who left their property in the Arab countries and emigrated to Israel in the 1950s and thereafter on the same footing as Palestinians are claiming compensation from Israel. Therefore, they claim that there should be a set-off between the two compensations, with the result that the Palestinian refugees would have nothing or perhaps almost nothing.

The answer to this fallacious argument is twofold: First, Palestinian claim to repatriation or to compensation is based on the imperative article of the United Nations Resolution 194 which has been reaffirmed year after year. There is no such provision applicable to the Jews who left their homes in the Arab countries. Second, they left the Arab countries of their own accord as they were urged and even terrorised by Zionist propaganda, which published utterly false news about alleged persecution, to go to Israel. It is incontrovertible that in the 1950s Zionists perpetrated several bomb explosions in Jewish quarters in Baghdad, Cairo, Damascus and Morocco to force Jews to flee to Israel. Impartial researchers agree that Zionist propaganda and Zionist clandestine terrorism against the Jews of the Arab countries succeeded to drive thousands of them out and made them immigrate to Israel.

The Jews of the Arab countries

are oriental Jews, actually Arab Jews. It is undeniable that there was prejudice against them, but they did not suffer anything like the persecution and discrimination of their brethren in Europe. There were dedicated Zionists who considered that it was the duty of the Rabbinate, Jewish nationalists and community leaders to keep the prejudice alive. Even Herzl himself, the father of Zionism, condoned anti-Semitism to encourage Jews to go to Palestine. Any person interested to know how the Arab Jews left the Arab countries is advised to read the book titled "The Other Side of the Coin" written by the American Jewish author Alfred Lilienthal.

In stark contrast, the Palestinians were driven from their homes, towns and villages either by massacres (Deir Yassin, Kafr Qassim to mention only two), by panic (as documented by Dr. John Davis in his book "The Evasive Peace") or by sheer expulsion in Ramleh and Lydda as admitted by Yitzhak Rabin himself in his Diary and in Yalu, Beit Nuba and Immuas villages which were systematically destroyed by the Israeli army in 1967 and whose inhabitants were scattered to the four winds. The latter destruction was witnessed on the spot at the time by the French nun Sister Marie-Thérèse of the Order of the Companions of Jesus. At the outset, in order to hide the Jewish

atrocities, the Zionists spread the myth, the world over, that the Palestinian refugees left Palestine without cause at the express instruction of their own leaders. But this myth was shown to be downright Zionist propaganda, not corroborated by any evidence at all. Moreover, the recent publication of documents drawn from the archives of Israel Foreign Ministry dissipated any doubt about the truth of the above-mentioned events.

It can thus be concluded, without any shadow of doubt, that there is a great difference between the flight of the Palestinians from their country and what is called the "ingathering" of Arab Jews in Israel, launched by the Zionists in the 1950s. Therefore, it is up to the Zionists and Israel to compensate them, if they are entitled to compensation, but not the Arab states who have been bearing since 1948 the burden of the Palestinian refugees in their midst. Moreover, some Arab states will welcome the return of their Jewish citizens (such as probably Egypt and Morocco), but Israel has so far refused to allow the return of a single Palestinian refugee to his home in Israel. Even well-known personalities, such as Dr. Edward Said and Dr. Mubarak Awad, were refused residence in Arab Jerusalem, let alone allowed to return to their homes in the so-called Jewish part of Jerusalem.

## Yugoslav aid mission seen sliding into combat quagmire

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuters

BRUSSELS — The West's political leaders, finally gassed into action over the killing in former Yugoslavia, suggest that sending forces to protect relief convoys is possible without messy, full-scale intervention.

But military analysts and NATO officials say that view could be dangerously misleading. The line between convoy escort under a U.N. mandate and combat could be a very thin one. "Those politicians who are saying or suggesting we can have a limited mission to make sure aid gets through without getting trapped into fighting are pulling a confidence trick," said Edward Foster of London's Royal United Services Institute.

"This mission will cost — in lives and in cash. The public should be very aware of that." One NATO military official told Reuters the response of troops or planes protecting aid deliveries would be crucial in determining whether the West has to commit itself to fighting.

"It's very simple," he said. "What do you do when a relief convoy gets fired on?" The answer, if protection means anything, is to fire back. At which point, Western forces

become "the enemy" and the fighting could gradually spread and become fully-fledged combat.

Military history is studded with examples of limited military missions that became full-scale wars. Vietnam is perhaps the best example.

U.S. President George Bush has said he will not get "bogged down" in another Vietnam-style guerrilla conflict and that force cannot be used to end the killing.

Most of Washington's allies agree. But they also appear ready to back a U.N. resolution this week that would authorise the use of force to make sure humanitarian aid gets through to the beleaguered city of Sarajevo and other places.

Many allies are clearly hoping that the mere force will be enough to clear the way.

"The hope is that the adoption of this resolution ... will make it possible to (deliver aid) peacefully and without any use of military force," Thomas Niles, a U.S. assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian Affairs, has said.

But NATO diplomats say there is little real chance that Serb fighters in Bosnia will be intimidated.

Their weapons may be inferior to those of the West but they

know the terrain, enabling them to escape detection. They also seem to operate independently of Belgrade and have tanks and artillery.

Therefore, military officials say, any plan to protect the delivery of aid must include sufficient forces to pose a real threat of retaliation if the West is to remain credible.

NATO is drawing up such plans for a combined-arms, multinational force that might be used in the mission.

Up to 100,000 troops, with constant close air support from helicopter gunships and strike aircraft, could be needed to open a land corridor from the Adriatic port of Split to Sarajevo.

Taking Sarajevo airport, so that food and medicines could be flown in, would need 12,000 men backed with heavy equipment and air cover, according to preliminary alliance estimates.

"Look at these figures and you will see that we are not talking about a couple of thousand, lightly armed soldiers," said another NATO official.

"We cannot afford to send light escorts because they risk being cut to pieces. So we have to send what already amounts to an intervention force as a deterrent. The question is: Will it work as a deterrent?"

## Success with Bush helps Rabin through rough month in office

By Allyn Fisher  
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — By backing Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, President Bush has helped Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin fulfill a key campaign promise in less than a month in office.

That may sound great, but Mr. Rabin has already faced a crisis standoff between the army and Palestinian students, a no-confidence vote in parliament and sniping over naming a dozen deputy ministers after he pledged to trim government bureaucracy.

Mr. Rabin also has nagging domestic problems: unemployment of 11.6 per cent and a sharp decline in Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Rabin's first 30 days have been a balancing act of trying to change key policies of the previous right-wing Likud government without alienating too many Israeli voters.

His pledges to revive peace efforts and curb Jewish settlements in the occupied territories brought five no-confidence motions from the right wing after he was only two weeks in office. They were defeated 59-48 in the 120-seat parliament.

The day Mr. Rabin took office, a crisis developed after the army surrounded a West Bank university demanding to search leaving students for weapons. More than 2,000 students and professors refused to leave, and the stand-off went on four days.

It ended with the Palestinians accepting a compromise — the voluntary exile of six students to Jordan and the pull-back of the troops. But right-wingers criticised Mr. Rabin for knuckling under.

The public also is annoyed with the new government's top-heavy bureaucracy. After pledging to run a trim government, Mr. Rabin named 17 ministers and 12 deputy ministers to keep the support of his two coalition partners.

These problems dulled even the glow of Mr. Bush's complimentary remarks about Israel at a news conference Tuesday at his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

After a year of strains in Israeli-U.S. ties, Mr. Bush not only said he would recommend that Congress approve the guarantees, but saluted Mr. Rabin's policies as "very forthcoming and very proper."

Several editorials in Israeli dailies praised Mr. Rabin.

There is no reason we should not salute Yitzhak Rabin as the United States president did

yesterday," the mass-circulation Yedioth Aharonoth daily wrote.

Yet, newspapers also wrote at length about the uncertainties ahead.

Amnon Barzilai wrote in the Hadasot daily that the agreement to give the guarantees "does not remove the differences of opinion between Israel and the United States" about Middle East peace issues.

Swifter movement on the peace talks initiated by Mr. Rabin may also bring another controversy between the United States and Israel into the open — disagreement over the status of Jerusalem, Barzilai wrote.

Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed it into its capital. Mr. Rabin regards the city as its undivided capital, and says its future is not negotiable. Mr. Bush says the city should never be divided again, but that its status must be determined in negotiations.

Other Israeli analysts focused on the conditions placed on the loan guarantees, including demands that Israel reform its partly socialist economy.

"Israel will have to come up with serious proof about its intentions to carry out reform," Beni Temkin wrote in the Hadasot daily.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

# Progress is not compatible with obsolete traditions

Reviewed by Ella Nasrallah

WASHINGTON'S consent to give Israel the loan guarantees it has requested, U.S. and Arab countries' hostile stand against Iraq and a host of domestic issues were tackled prominently by the Jordanian press in the past week.

Dwelling on the Bush administration's consent to give Israel the loan guarantees, Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to the U.S. was not wasted and the leader of the new government in Israel has been able to overcome all resistance on the part of the White House in securing the loans.

This means that Mr. Rabin will get the loans before the U.S. presidential elections, at a time when no progress has been achieved in the Middle East peace process, noted the daily.

While giving the loans Mr. Bush has not secured the Jewish votes in the coming elections and this bribe to Israel can only deal a blow to the peace process, it said.

Under the title "another blow to U.S. credibility", Al Dostour said that all Arab and Palestinian apprehensions about the U.S.-Israeli relations were justified and, as expected, Mr. Bush has granted the \$10 billion to the Jewish state to help it set up Jewish settlements.

The paper said that by so

doing, Mr. Bush has been clearly seeking Jewish votes in the coming U.S. presidential elections.

We were not surprised to see Mr. Rabin winning the loans he had demanded simply because Mr. Bush is seeking the Jewish votes in the coming presidential elections at a time when the president is facing a fierce competition from Bill Clinton in the race to the White House, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The writer said that with the loan guarantees, Mr. Bush has granted Israel the tool with which to undermine the peace process and to harden its position at the peace negotiations with the Arabs.

Against the U.S. guarantees given to Israel to settle the Jewish immigrants from Russia, Jordan should demand that it too receive a similar measure from Washington to help it settle more than 300,000 returnees from the Gulf, demanded Nadia Aloud in Al Ra'i daily.

The writer said that the Palestinians in general and Jordan in particular ought to work out a well-prepared plan to counter the Zionist's moves in the United States and to use this trump card, demanding loan guarantees to settle the returning Palestinians from the Gulf.

According to Salamah Ekour, who writes for Sawt Al Shaab, the deal with Mr. Rabin over the the loan

guarantees could help Mr. Bush win the coming elections but it is not certain that Mr. Bush will guarantee a quick formula for the Palestinian autonomy rule as advocated by Israel.

The writer said that Mr. Bush's calculations could be wrong and it is not certain that he could help the Arab-Israeli negotiations to achieve any progress.

Mr. Bush is trying to impose an Israeli formula on the Palestinians, as he is trying desperately to impose a new ruler in Iraq, through intimidation and the use of force in both instances, hoping to win the hearts of the American electorate, said the writer.

In the view of Taher Al Udwan, who writes for Al Dostour, Mr. Rabin's formula of autonomy rule in Palestine requires a rejuvenation of the Palestinian intifada and a strong resistance.

Unfortunately, said the writer, the Palestinian uprising is facing isolation as Arab regimes are refraining from extending a helping hand to the resistance and unemployment rate is reaching up to 50 per cent of the total workforce in the occupied territory. These factors are dealing a heavy blow to the uprising, said the writer.

Referring to the continued threats directed at Iraq, Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the U.S. administration is not hid-

ing its intentions against Iraq and there is no doubt that the Bush administration is capable of creating the proper pretext for launching another aggression on the Iraqi people.

This time, said the paper, the U.S. administration is enlisting Russia's assistance in its new aggressive adventure against the Arab people.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, said that two years have elapsed after the imposition of the U.N. sanctions on Iraq but the Iraqis are showing more and more resilience and defying the U.S. threats of aggression.

The writer said that the sanctions are no more justified, and it is time for the Arabs to unite to end the embargo and with it end all prospects for another aggression on the Iraqi people.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, quoted a report by the Ha'arav team which visited Iraqi towns affected by the U.S. aggression, noting that 91,000 have been reported to have died as a direct result of the embargo and the war.

The writer said that the Americans achieved no victory by killing the innocent civilians as they fought with weapons prepared for a third world war, in contrast with Iraq which used weapons of the World War I.

Taher Al Udwan warned of concerted conspiracy against Iraq launched by Iran and the

western nations. The writer said that Iran has been sending thousands of armed men to cause trouble and disturbances to the Iraqis in the Shiite areas of the southern Iraq. This move, he said, was coupled by an allegation from a Dutch member of a special U.N. committee on human rights in Iraq.

The writer said that these moves, coupled with the current U.S. threats against Baghdad, indicate clearly that an international conspiracy is now in the making, and that the so-called Iraqi opposition is being used to help carry it out.

Commenting on the ongoing exercises along the Kuwait-Iraqi borders, Saleh Al Qallab, who writes for Al Dostour, said that any nation trying to seek foreigner's protection will find itself one day without any means of upholding their own sovereignty.

The writer said that any country can change its flag or its name but can by no means change its geographic location and, therefore, should rather try to reach reconciliation with its neighbours to ensure its safety.

Taher Al Udwan, who writes for Al Dostour, said that Jordan's cleanliness, its progress in a number of areas and its villas and shopping centres can be no means point to democratic society in the true sense of the word.

It requires a nation to have

established institutions, applying the laws to all people, to be truly considered democratic, said the writer.

He said crimes and accidents of which we hear now and then, should not be dealt with through traditions and customs but rather through the law and the institution.

Behind parliament, universities and the other forms of progress lies a society which is still adhering strongly to obsolete traditions that run contrary to the essence of progress and democracy, the writer added.

He said we have to reshape our traditions and our progress within a new framework that caters to the requirements of the modern age.

Parliament's discussions of corruption cases came under scrutiny by Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that Jordanians should not keep secret the debate about corruption under the pretext of trying to protect national unity.

Charges and countercharges levelled openly and free discussions on corruption cases can by no means cause harm to national unity because the people of Jordan are united against corruption, said the writer. He said that no one has the right to assume that he is backed by the country's leadership to justify acts of corruption.

سورة الاحقاف

# Women's role in Indian development

By Nirmala George

The need to bring women into the mainstream of development has been a national priority ever since India attained independence. In the early decades following independence, development measures were formulated with women being viewed as beneficiaries of development programmes and welfare schemes. A radical turnabout came in the mid-seventies, when it dawned on policy planners and social activists alike that women had to be viewed not merely as receivers of social services but as contributors to development as well.

As early as 1953, the government instituted the Central Social Welfare Board to promote and assist voluntary organisations in the field of women's welfare. Legislative measures to protect the interests of women included such laws as the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, and the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

The Indian constitution itself had prohibited any discrimination against women on the grounds of sex. Many of these laws, however,

remained confined to paper or had sufficient loopholes whereby offenders could go scotfree. Even today, the practice of taking dowry is common, and with the growing materialistic culture, the demands and pressures on a girl's family are much greater.

The publication of the report of the Committee on Status of Women in India, coinciding with the observance of the International Women's Year in 1975, focussed attention on the actual position of women in India. It was felt that concerted action was necessary to bring about drastic improvement in women's health, nutrition, literacy and employment. Above all, improving their economic status by providing jobs, training and access to income-generating activities was directly linked to their enhanced position in society.

The Equal Remuneration Act, enacted in 1976, was a step forward in providing legal support for the demand for equal pay for equal work.

In 1985, the government created a separate Department of Women's Welfare at the centre to give a separate identity and to provide a nodal point on matters relating to women's develop-

ment. Legislative measures were taken to provide protection to women against discrimination, exploitation, atrocities and violence.

The National Perspective Plan for Women, presented in 1988, provided a blueprint for the all round development of women from 1988 to 2000. A comprehensive report titled "Shramshakti," prepared by the National Commission on self-employed Women and Women in the Informal Sector analysed the large number of women in the informal sector and steps to improve their lives.

A notable step taken early this year was the setting up of a National Commission for Women, a statutory body, which would act as a watchdog group on all issues concerning women.

While legislative and administrative measures and numerous programmes to improve the status of women in society have been continuing, the picture on the ground is a rather patchy one, with a long way ahead for women to catch up with their male counterparts.

Some of the welfare schemes implemented by the government like the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Jaw-

har Rozgar Yojana and the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas scheme launched in 1982-83 increased employment opportunities for women, their access to skills, training credit and other support services. While a large chunk of women benefitted from these programmes, they formed only a small proportion of the vast numbers who remained outside the ambit of government-sponsored schemes.

In the field of agriculture, efforts have been made to enhance women's skills in agricultural operations. The "Operation Flood" programme involved rural women in dairy development on cooperative lines by training them in various activities related to milk production.

In the khadi and small-scale industries sectors, efforts have been made to help women entrepreneurs by providing them vocational training and credit facilities.

The number of women employed in the organised sector has increased from 1.37 million in 1962 to 3.57 million in 1989. However, the percentage increase in women's share in em-

ployment in the organised sector was a mere 2.4 per cent, from 11.3 per cent in 1962 to 13.7 per cent in 1989.

The overwhelming majority of women in India are engaged in the informal sector which is characterised by low returns, non-access to credit, technology, training and other facilities.

Women have still not been recognised as producers in their own right. A large number of women are employed as casual labourers in construction and other industries where they do not get the prescribed minimum wages. With the advent of modern technologies, the traditional economic activities which provide employment to women have suffered in competition with the more advanced technologies. Furthermore, home-based women workers almost never get the protective coverage of labour laws.

In the field of education, the enrolment ratio for girls in the age group 6-11 years rose from 24.61 in 1950-51 to 83.6 in 1989-90. For girls in the 11 to 14 years age group, the enrolment ratio rose from 4.4 to 44.58 in the same period. But these figures do not

reflect the unevenness of female literacy in different parts of the country.

The drive for universalisation of education also concentrated on ensuring retention of the girl child in school, reduction of drop-out rates and promotion of adult literacy. While the proportion of girls in secondary schools has doubled from 16.7 per cent of the total enrollment to 31.72 per cent in 1989-90, the figure is far from satisfactory. According to the 1991 census, the female literacy rate for the country as a whole stood at 39.42 per cent.

Health is another area where significant gains in women's health status have been made with life expectancy for females at birth having risen from 31.6 years in 1951 to 59.1 years in 1991. Infant mortality rate declined from 129 per thousand in 1970 to 91 in 1989. However, the

0-4 specific mortality rate continues to show higher female mortality and maternal mortality rates remain uncomfortably high.

Another disturbing trend is the sharp increase of prenatal sex determination tests and the killing of female foetuses. On the health front, the picture is indicative of the continued neglect of the female child's health and nutrition needs, early marriage, high fertility and poverty and inadequate access to health care.

Achieving the goal of bringing women into the mainstream of development can be reached only if women themselves are involved in the process. The experience of the past decades have amply proved that desired social objectives like universal primary education, immunisation, health care, nutrition, and safe drinking water, family planning and the small family norm and delaying the age

of marriage, especially of girls, can only be attained if women are educated. Women must be enabled to function as equal partners and participants in development.

Education, job training and skill development for women have to be emphasised if women are to compete in the job market. Increasing women's employment and thereby, ensuring their economic independence would lead to the empowerment of women in society.

Socio-cultural and administrative constraints to the realisation of women's full potential need to be removed and there has to be a greater social awareness of their contribution to society as a whole.

— Press Trust of India (PTI).

## India's 45th Independence Day Anniversary Al Safier Advertising

Avails this gracious occasion to felicitate India and her people on this day, and wishes India a prosperous & peaceful future.

## India's 45th Independence Day Anniversary Al Aqsa University Services Corp.

Avails this gracious occasion to felicitate India and her people on this day, and wishes India a prosperous & peaceful future.

## WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

On India's 45th Independence Day  
From: Al-Khaleej Frozen Meat Est.  
(Supplier of premium quality frozen India meat "Al-Tayeb")

## WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

On India's 45th Independence Day  
From: Al Tharwa Frozen Meat Est.  
(Supplier of premium quality frozen India meat "Al-Tamam").

## CONGRATULATIONS PAK VAN SERVICES

Conveys its felicitations and best wishes to India and its people on the 45th anniversary of their Independence Day

## CONGRATULATIONS Salata Trading Company greets India

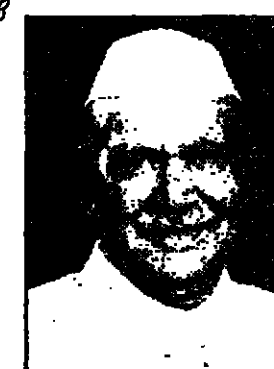
and its people on their Independence Day and wishes them prosperity and progress on the occasion.

## 45th Independence Day of India

Felicitations and extend wishes for an enduring opulence to India and her people.

With best compliments from:  
The Management and Staff of

Abu Shanab Metals Est.,  
Int'l Metal Traders  
Post Box 788, Zarka, Jordan  
Tel.: (06) 884990/885329  
Fax: (06) 887885, telex: 23351 AME JO



**Al Karmel**  
**Travel & Tourism**  
**Trading Company**



The general sales agent in Jordan for



**Air India**



Congratulates the friendly Indian people on their

**Independence Day anniversary,**  
and extends best wishes to the Indian president and prime minister on the occasion.

**Al Karmel Travel and Tourism**  
**Tel: 688301-695876, fax 688302**  
**Amman - Jordan**

## INDO-JORDAN SCHOLARS CLUB

HEARTIEST FELICITATION AND GREETINGS TO INDIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY.

## CONGRATULATIONS Nasser Maaita

Director general of the Zarka for University Services offers his warmest congratulations to the friendly Indian government and people and the Indian Embassy in Amman on India's independence anniversary, wishing India further progress and development.

## CONGRATULATIONS

with compliments on  
**India's Independence Day**  
From Yousef Al-Akkad Son's Co.  
Meat and marine products supply

## CONGRATULATIONS

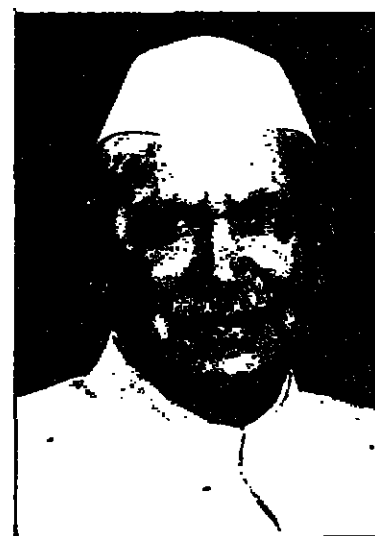
MUHAMMAD AL-SAHILI AND PARTNERS GENERAL CONTRACTING COMPANY (NAS).  
SILVER STAR INTERNATIONAL Est (SSI), (Mahmoud Al-Sahili Sons)

We extend our deepest felicitations for our friendly country INDIA and wish the Indian people every progress on the occasion of the INDEPENDENCE DAY.

M. AL-Sahili

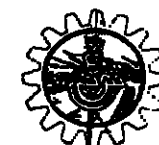


सत्यमेव जयते



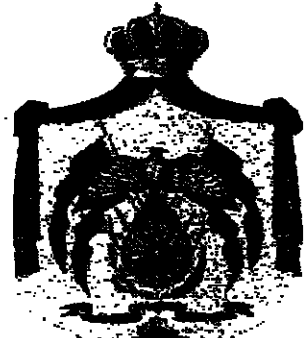
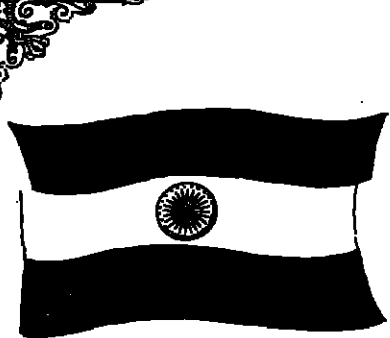
## JORDAN FERTILIZER INDUSTRY COORDINATION COMMITTEE

**Jordan Phosphate  
Mines Company**



**Arab Potash  
Company**

**WISH**  
**THE PEOPLE OF INDIA**  
**A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**AFFIRMING JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP**  
**AND HOPES OF CONTINUED PROGRESS**  
**AND PROSPERITY**



## ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

**INDO - JORDAN CHEMICALS CO. LTD.**  
(A JOINT VENTURE OF SPIC-INDIA & JPMC-JORDAN)

CONVEYS ITS FELICITATIONS AND CORDIAL WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA



## Qassar wins Latakia Equestrian Grand Prix

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Syria's Adnan Qassar Friday won the Grand Prix competition of the third Equestrian International Festival held in Latakia, Syria, with a total of 12.25 points Friday.

Majed Al Ka'bi of Qatar came in second with a total of 15.25 points followed by his compatriot Hussein Ali Al Miarri in the third place.

Jordan's Muna Sukhtian was leading in the first round with 5.5 points before she was disqualified in the second round.

The head of the Jordanian delegation protested over the disqualification based on the fact that members of the referees committee were not at their post when the start signal was given to Sukhtian. They also complained that Sukhtian's horse was startled which led to a refusal to jump when the crowd cheered for Basel Al Assad who had arrived at the stands. The protest was rejected by the technical committee.



Princess Haya

Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bin Al Hussein finished fourth Friday after taking the second place on the first day of the competition before pulling out in the second round Friday due to a

sudden illness of his horse.

Four countries — Syria, Lebanon, Qatar and Jordan — took part in the tournament organized by the Syrian Equestrian Federation.

## Southampton fined for discipline problems

LONDON (Agencies) — English soccer club Southampton was fined \$38,000 Friday for its poor disciplinary record last season.

The Football Association, English soccer's governing body, said \$9,500 must be paid immediately, with the remainder to be paid if the club does not improve its record during the 1992-93 season starting Saturday.

Referees handed out 80 cautions to Saints' players last term and sent off five. Eleven Southampton players — an entire soccer team — served suspensions during the season.

Saints manager Ian Branfoot said: "This is potentially a severe punishment and I would like to think we will learn from it. I believe I can put it right but all I can do is inflict damage on the players who have transgressed in the same way that the FA have come down on us."

The FA also fined Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan \$1,900 and issued an official warning to Blackburn manager Kenny Dalglish Friday, both for allegedly making comments to referees after losing games last season.

English clubs had until midday Friday to complete pre-season transfer deals, with a rush of last minute signings.

Everton paid Glasgow Rangers \$950,000 for striker Paul Rideout, and immediately named him to its team for the season opener against Sheffield Wednesday Saturday.

Rideout, 28, has played for Rangers, Notts County, Swindon, Aston Villa, Southampton, and Italian club Bari.

Norwich signed Manchester United striker Mark Robins for \$1.5 million, completing the deal minutes before the midday deadline.

Robins replaces Robert Fleck, who resigned from Norwich Wednesday to join Chelsea.

Meanwhile, the first day of the English Premier League will be a day of reckoning for Blackburn Rovers, the club with the fattest wallet in the country.

The newly-promoted north-eastern travel south to Crystal Palace Saturday with high expectations after signing striker Alan Shearer for a record fee from Southampton.

Blackburn, in the top flight for the first time since 1966, need to impress to justify their spending.

Dalglish has spent £10 million (\$19.3 million) in less than a year on the club, who narrowly and unconvincingly won promotion last season.

England international Shearer, signed for £3.6 million (\$6.9 million), recognised the pressure. "I think I've put more pressure on myself by signing for Blackburn rather than Manchester United or Liverpool, who already have established reputations," he said.

Palace's England midfielder Geoff Thomas will be determined to dampen Blackburn's spirits at Selhurst Park even though he may be joining his opponents later in the season.

Dalglish is keen to invest £3 million (\$5.4 million) in Thomas but Palace have included him in their squad and are reluctant to let their key man go.

"I'm confident I can go out against Blackburn and play my normal game," said Thomas this week. "It's in my interests to play well and not look like a two-bob player."

David Rocastle makes his league debut for Leeds after his £2 million (\$3.8 million) transfer from Arsenal and Chris Waddle returns to English soccer with Sheffield Wednesday after leaving French champions Marseille.

League champions Leeds open their campaign at home to Wimbledon, a club they beat 5-1 on their last visit.

Aston Villa, managed by the flamboyant Ron Atkinson, have caused ripples by signing hardly anybody.

This time last season, Villa gave debuts to six players but midfielder Ray Houghton, signed from Liverpool, is likely to be the only newcomer when they visit Ipswich.

Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar hopes to be on World Cup duty with Zimbabwe and is replaced at Nottingham Forest Sunday by former England under-21 player David James.

Forest have a worry over England fullback Stuart Pearce, struggling to shake off a groin injury.

Arsenal, one of the title favourites, host Norwich in a game sure to have the best-behaved fans in England.

The club were concerned that the destruction of the old north bank stand for redevelopment would deaden the atmosphere at matches so they erected a huge mural depicting rows of cheering fans on the building site.

The club plans to pipe the sound of cheering into the ground through loudspeakers to add to the atmosphere.

Queen's Park Rangers dashed hopes of a smooth start to the Premier League by declaring they would not cooperate with television coverage of their first match.

QPR are furious that they have to play three games in five days to suit the television schedules.

The club said they would not talk to anyone from the BSkyB television channel at Monday's game against Manchester City and would bar the cameras from their dressing-room.

The Premier League has signed a £304 million (\$587 million) television deal with BSkyB.

## UNICEF beats J.T. in basketball friendly

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a one of its kind, and hopefully to be repeated, feat of daredevil, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and Jordan Times ad hoc teams met in a sweat cum bone-breaking basketball match to be remembered.

Not once, for the defeat of our colleagues, not for two days (as long as the body will take to recover from muscular aches, stretched tendons and swollen "faulted" parts), but for much longer as one of the protagonists, in an uninspired move, landed on the heels of her hands and got a fracture to last for some time.

The match, a very heated one too (temperatures were raging high properly and figuratively), took place on Thursday afternoon on the Young Women's Christian Association court and ended, after strenuous struggle, with the impressive score of 22-20 in favour of the UNICEF team.

The J.T. team, which was playing for the first time, as actually

the rivals were too, by their own admission, fought valiantly to get the ball within the perimeter of the ring, not an easy task, especially that most of our colleagues are bespectacled and would not always distinguish an enemy from a friend.

That and the lack of physical fitness, not to mention complete lack of training, gave them the dignifying reason to lose to the superior team of their competitors.

From "happening" to listen to the UNICEF supporters, and players, this reporter heard that they were equally untrained, but that was not supposed to be known as it would have made "our" reason for losing case.

Among the enthusiastic cheerleaders, UNICEF had none other than Edward Lannert, regional director of the Amman-based UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle-East and North Africa.

On the J.T. side, staff's children were the most prominent, but the absence of "bigger" people was redressed by a senior editor's playing and actually scoring two points.

Overshining them all, nevertheless, was one little girl on the J.T. staff who managed to repeat the deeds of Michael Jordan and the likes by scoring six perfect points from beyond the three-point line.

With promises to meet again, friendly hand-shakes and threats of bigger gains, the two sides parted reluctantly to cool off after the heated encounter.

## Krabbe dope tests confirmed as positive

COLOGNE (AP) — Double world athletics sprint champion Krabbe and her team mate Grit Breuer face four-year bans from competition after their positive dope tests for banned drugs were confirmed Friday.

German Athletics Federation (DLV) doping official Ruediger Nickel said the B sample

urine sample) supplied by Krabbe and Breuer during random tests in training last month had tested positive for the anabolic and stimulant clenbuterol.

That confirms that all the tests given by the athletes contained clenbuterol, Mr. Nickel told a news conference after the B tests were analysed Friday afternoon.

## Courier, Aggasi ousted from ATP Championship

MASON, Ohio (R) — After an afternoon of upsets in which Jim Courier and Andre Aggasi were knocked out of the \$1.4 million Thriftway ATP Championships, Stefan Edberg, Michael Chang and Ivan Lendl restored order by winning their third-round matches.

On the J.T. side, staff's children were the most prominent, but the absence of "bigger" people was redressed by a senior editor's playing and actually scoring two points.

Edberg had little trouble beating 15th-seeded Amos Mansdorf 6-4, 6-3. Fourth-seeded Chang made quick work of 13th-seeded fellow American Brad Gilbert 6-2, 6-2 and eighth seed Lendl easily defeated 57th-ranked Cedric Pioline of France 6-1, 6-2.

In the quarterfinals, Edberg faces unseeded Jim Grabb, third-seeded Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia, Chang meets Yzaga and Lendl faces Wheaton.

After his French Open win, Courier, the number one player in the world, lost in the third round of Wimbledon, the second round of Kitzbuhel and the third round of the Olympics.

Asked if tennis is failing to give him much pleasure lately, Courier replied: "That's a pretty good assessment."

"In this period of time, I'm not really enjoying tennis. Hopefully, that will come back in, let's say,

the next five minutes."

Courier and Wheaton are no strangers. They played each other frequently in the juniors and the 44th-ranked Wheaton now has won two of their three professional matches.

"It's not that huge a win, so I'm not jumping out of my skin or anything," said Wheaton. "I've beaten Jim before and I've beaten another number one, Stefan Edberg. I might happen to be 43 spots behind him but I know I have the capabilities."

Courier struggled with his serve, and Wheaton was in good form — able to trade groundstrokes and as usual the more comfortable of the two around the net — and thus in control.

The eighth-ranked Aggasi is plagued at least once a year by tennisitis. He looked pale and appeared listless throughout the match with the 82nd-ranked Yzaga, who never won in seven previous matches against Aggasi.

"I don't think I could have played tomorrow if I won today, said Aggasi, who thinks it is unlikely he will be fit to play next week at New Haven. "Actually, there was no way I could play tomorrow. Hopefully, a good dose of Penicillin will knock it out in 10 days."

Edberg gave up only six points on serve in the first set and four in the second against the 24th-ranked Mansdorf.

"I was seeing the ball well tonight," he Swede said. "When you feel in control everything is so much easier."

Lendl, who became an American citizen last month, was barely challenged by the unseeded Pioline.

"The last three and a half weeks I've been pleased with my game," said Lendl.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI  
© 1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A954 ♠Q8 ♠83 ♠Q7642  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West North  
2 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl  
Pass  
Weak two-bid

What action do you take?  
A.—It sounds as if partner has a very good hand and the vulnerability is attractive. However, you just do not have quite enough in spades to convert the double to penalties. Bid three clubs.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠884 ♠832 ♠Q752 ♠1098  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Dbl Pass  
Pass  
What action do you take?

A.—There's not to reason why, there's just to do or die. The two actions that do not even rate comment is pass (neither your hand nor suit is good enough) or one no trump (you are about seven points short). Partner has asked you to bid your longest suit, so grit your teeth and make the cheapest bid of one heart.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠QJ ♠AJS ♠5 ♠AKQ8763  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠  
Pass  
What action do you take?

A.—Yes, you probably have the best hand at the table and yes, we could construct many hands where partner has just enough for you to make three no trump. But both vulnerable opponents are bidding and any violent action you take could prove expensive. Be content with two clubs to see what develops.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠6 ♠AJ108542 ♠J5 ♠AJ9  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠  
Pass 2 ♠  
Pass 3 ♠  
Pass  
What do you bid now?

A.—You have one story to tell, and just one. Bid three hearts. You don't want to raise partner's second suit with only three-card support if there's any other option—even if you have pretty good three-card support.

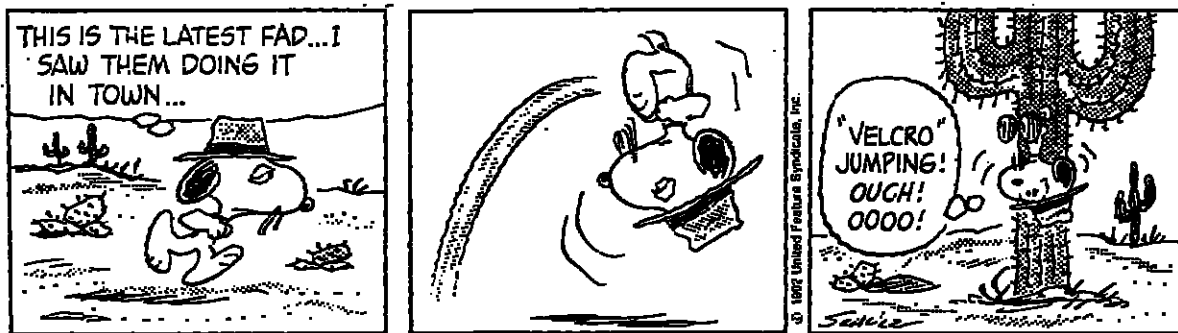
Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AK6 ♠AK7682 ♠A ♠4952  
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—In the modern style, to jump shift you need either a self-sufficient suit or a good fit for partner's suit. This hand meets neither criterion, so bid one heart. For those who learned the game many years ago and were taught to show a strong hand by making a jump shift, this hand clearly qualifies for two hearts.

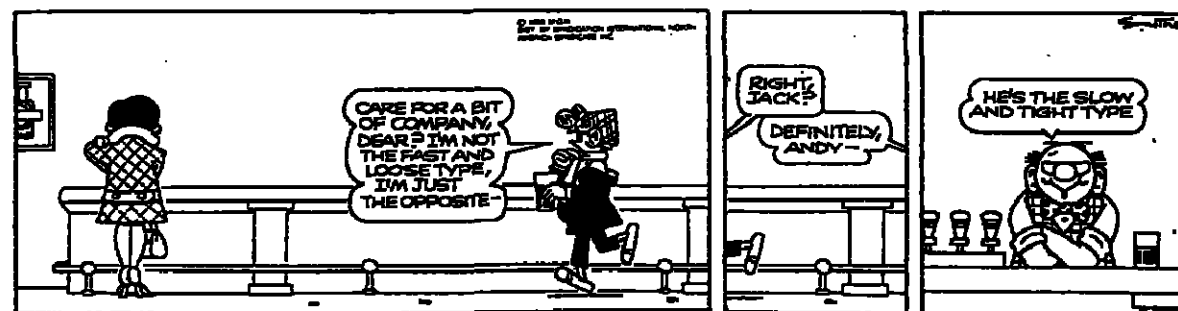
Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠J7543 ♠1098 ♠A10 ♠A66  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠  
Pass 1 NT  
Pass  
What action do you take?

A.—With partner limited to 14 or 15 points, depending on your methods, you should have no thoughts of game. Should you resist spaces to show a five-card suit? Why? You have a balanced hand and no trump must be a perfectly playable spot, so pass.

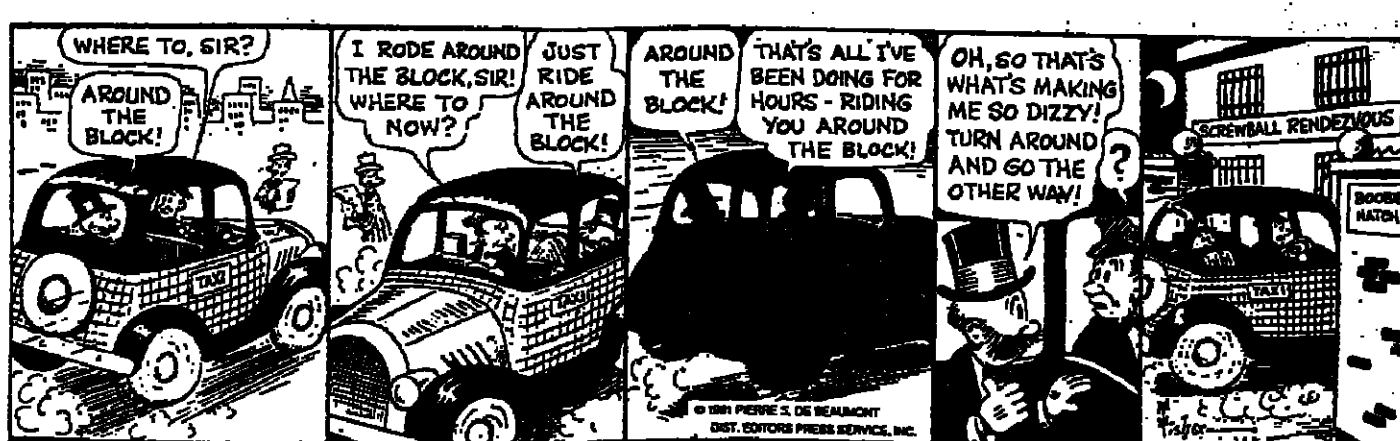
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Organize your most interesting activities for more success in the days ahead. Seek out brilliant persons and get the benefit of their suggestions for increasing your productivity.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) A newswoman can make conditions easier in the morning after which it is necessary that you sidestep complaints of an associate who is upset.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) Take time out early to add some new style improvement on your job while later steer clear of one of different views who expects you to do things his/her way.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Accept that surprise invitation you get early and then you need to avoid a friend who is persistent that you take a risk of whom you do not approve.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A chance to improve conditions at home should early be seized for later a worldly matter best hours.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Do something for a usual ally early that will make things easier for that person, then later don't try to put into motion new ideas you know little about.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You can do something of a practical nature that is early very

much to your benefit but then don't let a fast talker get you into some practical scheme.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have an inspiration how best to gain a personal desire while later suggestions made by an outside associate can put you way off the track.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Think about how to build up the confidence of you made by some unusual activity, then don't make work decisions that requires a chance of associates.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) A cooperative friend will do what can bring your heart's desire but later if you join with a group of friends at entertainment, odd conditions then occur.

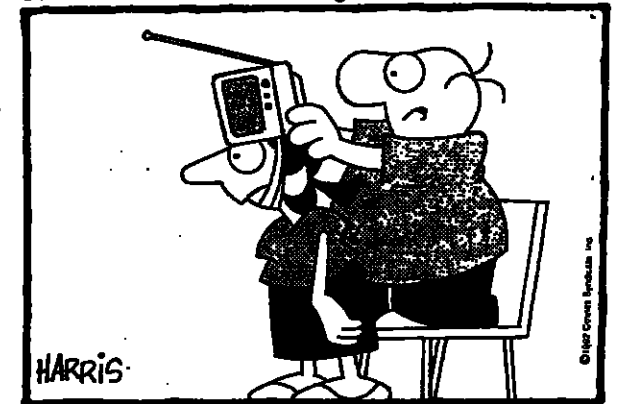
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You can do some outside duty in sparring manner that gains acclaim early, then retire to usual, attitude without making drastic changes.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can gain an aspiration by going after it with charm early, but then you need to make sure you know all facets of a plan before making changes.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You suddenly know what your attachment wants you to do early so do not put off doing, then iron whatever kinks are in the plan for complete harmony.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I can kiss you longer if I know I'm not missing anything good on TV!"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAPAD  
YAKLE  
SHUCOR  
FLTUE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

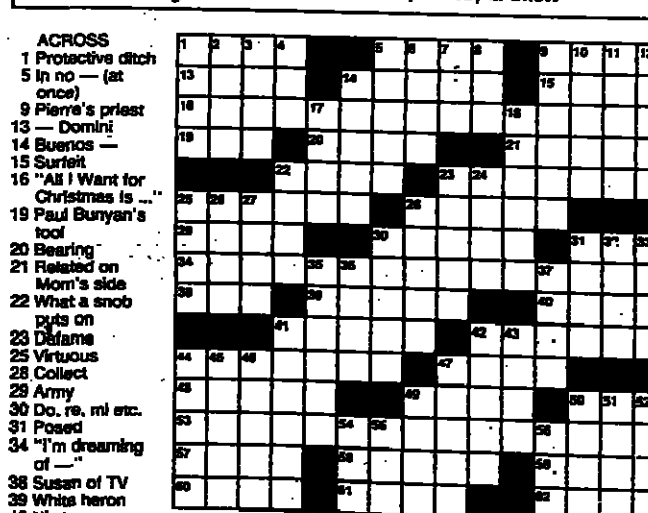


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "OOOO" "OOOO"  
(Answers tomorrow)

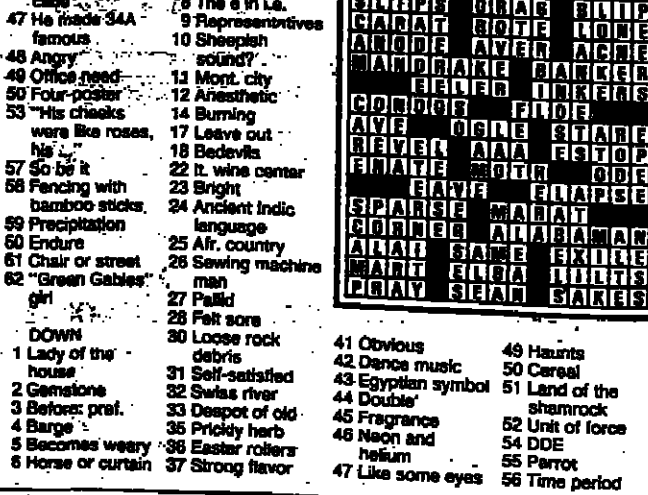
Yesterday's Jumbles: CRESS AUDIT JAILED TURTLE  
Answer: What some people do when they can't pay the installment due—JUST STALL

## THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



## Financial Markets

**Jordan Times**  
In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Daily

U.S. Dollar to International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 12/18/92	TOKYO CLOSE 12/18/92
Sterling Pound	1.9305	1.9285
Deutsche Mark	1.4632	1.4662
Swiss Franc	1.9205	1.9225
French Franc	4.9590	4.9648**
Japanese Yen	127.30	127.37
European Currency Unit	1.9920	1.9898**

**Interest Rates** Date: 12/18/92

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.31	5.31	5.43	5.68
Sterling Pound	9.93	10.12	10.25	10.12
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.75	9.81	9.81
Swiss Franc	7.93	8.31	8.37	8.18
French Franc	10.00	10.18	10.21	10.28
Japanese Yen	4.06	3.93	3.62	3.56
European Currency Unit	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.68

**Gold Prices** Date: 12/18/92

Unit	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
Gold	339.20	6.75	Silver	5.82

**Other Currencies** Date: 12/18/92

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
U.S. Dollar	0.649	0.671
Sterling Pound	7.2871	7.2935
Deutsche Mark	0.4557	0.4580
Swiss Franc	0.5052	0.5077
French Franc	0.1346	0.1353
Japanese Yen	0.5250	0.5276
Dutch Guilder	0.4042	0.4062
Swedish Krona	0.1254	0.1260
Italian Lira	0.0601	0.0604
Belgian Franc	0.02215	0.02226

**Other Currencies** Date: 12/18/92

Currency	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
U.S. Dollar	1.7490	1.7570
U.S. Dollar	0.0250	0.0290
Saudi Riyal	0.1770	0.1795
Kuwait Dinar	2.2300	2.3200
Qatari Riyal	0.1814	0.1830
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2130
United Arab Emirates Dirham	1.706	1.725
UAE Dirham	0.1814	0.1820
Greek Drachma	0.3650	0.3750
Cypriot Pound	1.5400	1.5900

**CAI Indices for Amman Financial Market**

Index	12/18/92	Close	10/18/92	Close
All-Share	141.69		141.42	
Banking Sector	103.96		103.65	
Insurance Sector	151.90		151.62	
Industry Sector	192.95		193.71	
Services Sector	182.89		182.91	

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

**LONDON (R)** — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and Bullion Markets for Friday.

One Sterling	U.S. dollar
1.927080	1.927080
1.460247	1.460247
1.6400500	1.6400500
1.317282	1.317282
30.0913	30.0913
4.960050	4.960050
1110/1112	1110/1112
126.1015	126.1015
5.314595	5.314595
5.7570620	5.7570620
5.6290340	5.6290340
One ounce of gold	\$335.45/\$36.95

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

**AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET**  
Trading Bank Center Amman - Sarrajat  
Telephone: 66270 / 66270  
Organized Market Trading Activity for the Period (12/18/1992 - 12/18/1992)

**WEEKLY REPORT**

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	TRADING PRICE	OFFERING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN TRADING BANK	7,824	2,900	2,910	2,910
JORDAN TRADING BANK	248,841	1,930	1,930	1,930
JORDAN TRADING BANK	31,246	1,520	1,520	1,520
JORDAN TRADING BANK	16,252	2,300	2,300	2,300
JORDAN TRADING BANK	54,254	2,050	2,100	2,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	2,472	2,300	2,300	2,300
JORDAN TRADING BANK	58,103	2,000	2,050	2,050
JORDAN TRADING BANK	41,557	1,950	1,960	1,960
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,994	3,250	3,250	3,250
JORDAN TRADING BANK	72,074	1,150	1,150	1,150
JORDAN TRADING BANK	194,800	1,110	1,110	1,110
JORDAN TRADING BANK	372,878	1,110	1,110	1,110
JORDAN TRADING BANK	108,150	1,100	1,100	1,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,418,201	1,000	1,000	1,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	30,421	113.250	113.250	113.250
JORDAN TRADING BANK	6,127	2,700	2,700	2,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	210	2,550	2,550	2,550
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,056,745	2,580	2,580	2,580
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,643	3,000	3,050	3,050
JORDAN TRADING BANK	15,940	1,450	1,500	1,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	162	1,250	1,250	1,250
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,040	2,320	2,300	2,300
JORDAN TRADING BANK	780	3,700	3,800	3,800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,924	1,550	1,570	1,570
JORDAN TRADING BANK	97,391	1,500	1,500	1,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	77,714	1,350	1,350	1,350
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,607	0,700	0,700	0,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	2,461	2,330	2,340	2,340
JORDAN TRADING BANK	419,562	1,470	1,460	1,460
JORDAN TRADING BANK	32,421	2,470	2,470	2,470
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,462	1,620	1,610	1,610
JORDAN TRADING BANK	44,587	0,980	0,980	0,980
JORDAN TRADING BANK	95,124	0,730	0,730	0,730
JORDAN TRADING BANK	10,820	1,150	1,150	1,150
JORDAN TRADING BANK	22,551	1,520	1,500	1,520
JORDAN TRADING BANK	131,876	2,470	2,470	2,470
JORDAN TRADING BANK	278,597	7,450	7,400	7,290
JORDAN TRADING BANK	43,742	5,550	5,550	5,550
JORDAN TRADING BANK	44,725	5,730	5,730	5,730
JORDAN TRADING BANK	10,805	21,550	21,550	21,550
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,055,285	4,750	4,750	4,750
JORDAN TRADING BANK	16,855	0,700	0,700	0,700
JORDAN TRADING BANK	104,622	5,000	5,000	5,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	130,824	0,450	0,450	0,450
JORDAN TRADING BANK	83,739	4,650	4,650	4,650
JORDAN TRADING BANK	10,942	0,740	0,740	0,740
JORDAN TRADING BANK	2,938	5,100	5,100	5,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,500	3,550	3,550	3,550
JORDAN TRADING BANK	37,594	2,510	2,500	2,500
JORDAN TRADING BANK	815,442	2,150	2,140	2,140
JORDAN TRADING BANK	6,350	0,560	0,560	0,560
JORDAN TRADING BANK	4,040	4,100	4,060	4,060
JORDAN TRADING BANK	137,305	12,340	12,340	12,340
JORDAN TRADING BANK	18,543	1,450	1,450	1,450
JORDAN TRADING BANK	29,574	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	20,750	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	495	1,450	1,450	1,450
JORDAN TRADING BANK	28,363	1,070	1,050	1,110
JORDAN TRADING BANK	159,723	2,090	2,090	2,090
JORDAN TRADING BANK	7,812	2,580	2,560	2,580
JORDAN TRADING BANK	759,025	6,100	6,100	6,100
JORDAN TRADING BANK	815,648	5,620	5,640	5,680
JORDAN TRADING BANK	157,410	1,270	1,270	1,280
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,344	1,730	1,690	1,610
JORDAN TRADING BANK	3,857	1,590	5,000	5,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	75,140	0,540	0,550	0,560
JORDAN TRADING BANK	549,240	5,460	4,950	4,950
JORDAN TRADING BANK	184,884	2,700	2,700	2,710
JORDAN TRADING BANK	1,880	21,000	21,000	21,000
JORDAN TRADING BANK	53,522	8,250	8,250	8,250
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>12,257,702</b>			

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## Top agency cuts Italy's credit rating

MILAN (R) — Rome's standing in the international financial community took a further sharp blow when a top U.S. credit agency cut Italy's rating.

The Italian lira weakened sharply and Italian government bond futures plummeted on news that Moody's Investors Service Inc. announced it would downgrade Italy's foreign currency debt to A-3 from A-1.

Treasury Minister Piero Baroni said he was saddened by the move, but vowed the government would continue with efforts to claw public finances back out of the red.

"I am sorry that Moody's decision has arrived just at the time when the government's action was beginning to please in Italy and overseas," Mr. Baroni said.

The seven-week-old government of Giuliano Amato has implemented reforms to slash Italy's monster budget deficit, which is expected to top 150 trillion lire (\$136 billion) this year alone.

Italy became the only Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nation not to have the top-notch AAA rating last year after Moody's first cut its rating.

## Saudi Arabia may face debt service problems

KUWAIT (R) — Saudi Arabia, already paying out billions of dollars a year to service its growing domestic and foreign debt, may have problems meeting its commitments by the mid-1990's, economists and bankers in Riyadh say.

They estimate that by the end of 1992 the oil-rich kingdom would have accumulated about \$60 billion worth of outstanding debt, mainly in government treasury bills and bonds held by domestic firms and banks.

Debt payments including principal would cost Riyadh between \$5 billion and \$8 billion 1992, they said. This would more than double in a few years if Riyadh did not put brakes on spending or find ways of increasing its non-oil revenue.

"They don't have a serious debt service problem yet but if they continue on the trend they are now they probably will fairly soon... by 1995-1996," one Western economist said.

"The size of the debt is not particularly worrying but debt service commitments will be quite large in a few years' time — it will take a progressively bigger slice of government revenues as the decade unfolds," said another.

Burdened by huge Gulf war costs, Saudi Arabia broke with long-standing policy and borrowed a total of \$9.67 billion from commercial banks during the past year. Its domestic banks, flush with cash, provided \$5.2 billion of the total under terms dictated by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA).

Economists estimate another \$50 billion in two to five-year bonds issued since 1988 and one to six-month treasury bills launched last November will also be on the government's books by the end of December.

About 60 per cent of the amount would have been taken up by state firms like the Saudi Fund for Development, the General Organisation for Social Insurance and oil giant Saudi Aramco.

This, according to economists, means Riyadh will have the option of writing the debt off if it becomes a problem.

One difficulty, they say, is that a secondary market for the bonds has failed to take off and the government is having a hard time rolling them over as they mature.

Weekly treasury bill offerings — more attractive because of a repurchase and reverse repurchase facility — have been raised to \$2.5 or \$3.5 billion from \$1.5 billion initially.

"Continued success could lull the government into credit supported fiscal spending through the 1990s, leading to a doubling or even tripling of its debt service demands," one economist said.

No official figures are available but analysts say Riyadh's budget deficit hit a record \$15 billion both in 1990 and 1991.

They maintain that despite one.

## Israel takes first step towards privatising banks

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's new Labour government has taken the first step towards privatising the state-owned banking sector by selling a stake in Bank Mizrahi, officials said Friday.

Trimeg Holdings Ltd., owned by Israeli businessman Gad Ze'evi, paid \$100 million for a 26 per cent stake in Mizrahi, the fourth largest bank, and took an option to buy a controlling interest, they said.

Finance Minister Abraham Shohat called the sale a "break-through".

An agreement signed late Thursday gave Mr. Ze'evi an option to buy another 25 per cent of Mizrahi shares by September 1993 for \$85 million and he could later raise his stake to a maximum of 70 per cent, the finance ministry said in a statement.

"The government wants to free itself from responsibility for the banks," Mr. Shohat said after the signing.

The government bailed out most major banks in 1983 after stock prices crashed on revelations of extensive share manipulation. The scandal cost the government \$7 billion to \$10 billion.

Before the latest sale the government owned 97 per cent of the bank. The Orthodox Jewish Mizrahi Movement, once the majority shareholder, owned three per cent.

Privatising banks is one aspect of the gradual reforms transforming Israel's socialist-based economy.

The central bank has advised the government to sell the four largest banks by the end of 1993. The sale will raise an estimated \$3 billion to \$5 billion.

## Coca-Cola becomes biggest foreign investor in Bulgaria

SOFIA (R) — Coca-Cola has become the biggest foreign investor in Bulgaria after creating a fifth joint venture company in Sofia, trade officials have said.

Coca-Cola Bottlers Sofia Ltd. brings together Bulgaria's Central Cooperative Union (CCU), the Leventis Group subsidiary Clarina Holding S.A. and the Coca-Cola Export Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Coca-Cola Company.

CCU President Pancho Ivanov told Reuters Coca-Cola Bottlers would create 1,600 new jobs.

## Taiwan export orders climb

TAIPEI (R) — Export orders for Taiwanese goods in the first half of 1992 climbed 7.6 per cent from a year earlier to \$39.58 billion, but growth in orders showed signs of slowing, the economics ministry has said.

Booming trade with China through Hong Kong boosted demand for Taiwanese exports but currency appreciation, a weak global economy and the island's severe labour shortage limited gains, the ministry said.

In June, export orders rose 6.5 per cent from a year earlier but fell 2.4 per cent from May to \$6.77 billion. The recent appreciation of the Taiwan dollar helped to curb the export boom by making local goods more expensive overseas, the ministry said.

Orders from the United States, Taiwan's biggest export market, rose 0.4 per cent from May to \$2.42 billion in June. Orders from Hong Kong, the main conduit for indirect trade with China, surged 9.1 per cent to \$1.06 billion. But orders from Europe plunged 9.9 per cent to \$980 million, and Japanese orders fell 5.3 per cent to \$800 million.

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## U.N. votes to use force to ensure aid to Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Yugoslavia's naval chief said Friday he was concerned that the U.N. Security Council's authorisation of the use of force to deliver aid to Bosnia may lead to broader military action.

Also Friday, leaders of the former Yugoslav Federation were holding another round of peace talks sponsored by the European Community in Brussels. NATO officials met in the Belgian capital to review plans on using armed forces to deliver relief supplies to Bosnia.

But Rear Adm. Nikola Ergovic told the Associated Press that he saw no reason for the Security Council resolution.

"Nobody was preventing deliveries of humanitarian aid," he said in an interview in Kumbor, naval headquarters of the smaller, Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. "This move may have wider military implications than just the security of relief aid."

Still, Sarajevo, which has been heavily besieged by Serbs for months, was quite overnight following the U.N. vote.

Adm. Ergovic's navy already faces a combined Western force in the Adriatic which monitors compliance with U.N.-imposed economic sanctions against Yugoslavia.

The West largely blames Serbia, the dominant republic in the new Yugoslav Federation, for fomenting warfare in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Yugoslav officials say they have no role in Bosnia since the Yugoslav army was withdrawn in May and Bosnia was admitted to the United Nations as an independent country.

No Thursday, a day of moves and counter-moves, Yugoslav Premier Milan Panic made a surprise visit to besieged Sarajevo and the Red Cross blasted those responsible for the atrocities in Bosnia.

Sources said Mr. Panic, who lived in the United States for decades before becoming premier

of Serb-led Yugoslavia last month, came to Sarajevo with an offer: His country would recognise Bosnia if the Muslim-led government relinquished land now controlled by Serbs in eastern Bosnia.

That was unlikely to be acceptable to the Sarajevo government. During Mr. Panic's visit, a sniper killed an American newsman in his convoy, prompting the Yugoslav premier to declare that "terrorists" surrounding the city were out of anyone's control.

The identity of the sniper who killed David Kaplan, 45, an ABC-TV producer, was unknown, although Serbs control the heights in the area. Thirty journalists have been killed in 13 months of fighting in the former Yugoslav Federation.

Serb shelling also hit Sarajevo's main hospital, and three other people were killed during the day, Sarajevo Radio said. A bus convoy of 315 Muslim and Croat women and children that left Sarajevo Wednesday reached safety Thursday in Croatia.

In Geneva, the Red Cross departed from its usual balanced language to issue a stinging condemnation of atrocities committed by all sides in former Yugoslavia and to complain that it was unable to visit many detention camps.

Sarajevo radio reported that Bosnia's estimate of the number of Serb "concentration camps" has risen from 94 to 111. The Serbs also charge Croats and Muslims with running such camps — but most human rights complaints have been leveled at Serb camps.

Bosnia's Muslims and Croats voted on Feb. 29 for independence. Since then, ethnic Serb fighters who want to remain part of Yugoslavia have captured two-thirds of Bosnia-Herzegovina. More than 8,000 people have been killed and more than a million have fled their homes.

At the United Nations, the Security Council approved the

use of force as a last resort, although diplomats stressed they had no plans to send new troops. It also unanimously passed a resolution demanding access to detention camps and set the stage for possible war crimes trials.

Muhammad Sacirbey, Bosnia's ambassador, criticised the resolution as weak and said his country would welcome help from any quarter — be it Turkey, Iran or Israel.

Turkey announced it was ready to assemble 480 elite soldiers to be part of a possible U.N. force. That is unlikely to sit well with Serbs, who recall 500 years of domination by Ottoman Turks.

Turkey, a Muslim country, has special ties to Bosnia. Forty-four per cent of Bosnia's prewar inhabitants were Slavic Muslims, descendants of people who converted to Islam during the Ottoman empire.

Also Thursday, the U.N. agency dealing with refugees said it had sent four trucks with 80 tonnes of food and medicine to the town of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has protested Serb plans to evict 28,000 Muslims from the region.

"UNHCR is boosting its moral presence and visibility around Banja Luka in hopes of stabilising the situation and stemming the systematic campaign of terror," the agency said.

In Brussels, NATO's military staff prepared plans to deploy about 100,000 troops to open a land corridor to deliver food and medicine to Bosnia-sources said Thursday.

But they said high-ranking advisers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) were unwilling to embrace such an extensive operation.

A Bosnian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Panic offered to recognise Bosnia's independence if it stopped calling for U.N. intervention and accepted Serb territorial gains.



A Bosnian Muslim family in Croatia await transfer to Germany

Such terms were unlikely to win Bosnian approval.

France is prepared to send 1,100 troops to Bosnia under the U.N. Security Council resolution authorising force to protect relief convoys, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Friday.

Mr. Dumas told French Television President Francois Mitterrand had approved his proposal for a contingent of 1,100 men divided into four units — engineers, troops transport, light armoured vehicles and helicopters.

He said they would serve under the French flag under the Security Council resolutions passed Thursday.

Meanwhile, the leader of Bosnia's rebel Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, said Friday his forces had not attacked aid convoys and the United Nations did not need

to send military escorts to protect them from Serbs.

Mr. Karadzic, who was due in Brussels for a further round of European Community-mediated peace talks, said Serb irregulars were not responsible for attacks on aid supplies to the victims of the civil war.

"Convoys have never been attacked through Serbian territories, (they have) been attacked via approaching Muslim positions," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"But we are ready to give an additional escort to support U.N. escorts of convoys."

Mr. Karadzic's previous ceasefire pledges have not been followed through and his version of events in Bosnia, blaming rival Muslims for much of the violence, has been greeted with scepticism by peace brokers and diplomats.

## Georgian troops hunt for kidnappers

SAMTREDIA, Georgia (R) — Troops loyal to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze scoured forests and hills Friday, looking for rebel forces they think have kidnapped the country's interior minister and blown up a railway bridge.

"We will continue our anti-guerrilla operations and look for hostages," said Davi Chinkotadze, commander-in-chief of the Georgian National Guard, speaking outside a hotel where soldiers were unloading food and ammunition.

Each soldier received two boxes of ammunition, or more than 1,000 bullets.

Local journalists in the capital Tbilisi quoted a Georgian Interior Ministry spokesman as saying forces supporting ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia had blown up a key railway bridge linking Russia with Georgia early Friday.

It would take at least two weeks to repair the damage. Mr. Shevardnadze, the Soviet Union's last foreign minister, has vowed to crush what he calls "forces of evil" in western Georgia. He dispatched 3,000 troops from Tbilisi this week to track down rebels loyal to Mr. Gamsakhurdia.

But in Gamsakhurdia's stronghold of Zugdidi, members of a patrol loyal to the ousted leader told Reuters late Thursday they were ready for a guerrilla war against government troops.

Georgia accuses Mr. Gamsakhurdia, toppled in a bloody revolt last January, of masterminding Tuesday's abduction of a dozen officials including Interior Minister Roman Gvantsadze.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia has denied responsibility. The kidnappers spurned an ultimatum from Georgian police to release their captives by Thursday morning or face a massive operation to "exterminate" them.

The troops, backed by armoured cars and special police units, were under the command of Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani, a leader of the military coalition that drove Mr. Gamsakhurdia from power.

TASS said Mr. Kitovani was not rushing to involve his troops in the region because he still hoped that a peaceful solution could be found. Talks between government forces and the rebels had "not yielded and positive results."

The National Guardsmen and

Interior Ministry troops said they were confident that they would find the rebel forces.

Ramin Cheldze, a spokesman for the Georgian State Council, said Thursday the captives were being held in the autonomous Georgian region of Abkhazia.

Abkhazian officials deny this is the case. They say the rebels are in Georgia itself.

Gela Lanchava, commander in chief of Georgian Interior Forces, said there was bound to be fighting.

He said troops loyal to Mr. Gamsakhurdia probably numbered about 900 armed fighters. "We are ready to face the opposition," he said.

Russian television said Friday that Georgian tanks and troops had surrounded the parliament building in the autonomous region of Abkhazia.

Local journalists in the Georgian capital Tbilisi quoted Beslan Bargandzhia, head of the Abkhazian Parliament Press Centre, as saying there had been casualties in street fighting about one kilometre from the parliament building.

No confirmation was available of the clashes, in the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi on the Black Sea coast.

"At this very moment helicopters of the National Guard are firing on the parliament building," the journalist quoted Bargandzhia as saying. Helicopters had also fired on police outside the parliament building.

The loss of the bridge on the Transcaucasian railway severs the main rail link with Russia for both Georgia and Armenia, and officials said it could mean disruption of food supplies.

In unrest elsewhere in the former Soviet Union Friday, nine people were reported killed by Azerbaijani shelling in Stepanakert, the capital of the Armenian region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian reports from the disputed region in the Caucasus mountains said a continuing Azerbaijani offensive captured three villages in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Reports from Azerbaijan said its troops freed a key highway from Armenian control, but not without dead and wounded among its forces.

The fighting came a day after the parliament in Nagorno-Karabakh announced a six-month state of emergency in the region and called up all men between the ages of 18 and 45.

## ANC scales down clash death toll, blames taxi feud

IVORY PARK, South Africa (R) — The African National Congress (ANC), scaling down its death toll for fighting in a squatter camp east of Johannesburg early Friday, said five people and not 18 had been killed.

The ANC, which originally said the township had been attacked by a combined force of the rival Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and police, added that the deaths were apparently the result of gang warfare between rival taxi companies.

Spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa told reporters five people had been killed Friday, three last Monday and about 11 wounded in what appeared to be a war between rival taxi operators.

Asked about the ANC's initial statement, he said: "When people are under attack it is reasonable for them to be confused and exaggerate."

A massacre at Boipatong township south of Johannesburg June 17 in which at least 43 people died impelled the ANC to break off democracy talks with the white-minority government.

In the dusty, squalid Ivory Park Camp there was considerable

confusion as to what had happened Friday.

Reporters saw only four bodies wrapped in flowered sheets outside a couple of shacks.

Some residents linked the killings to a feud between local taxi operators and said the figure of 18 dead was over the period of about a week. They said six people died early Friday.

The superintendent at a nearby township hospital, Isak Joubert, said eight people had been admitted and were in fair condition.

A spokeswoman at police headquarters said the police knew nothing of the pre-dawn killings and were investigating.

A spokeswoman for the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, Suzanne Vos, said she had no immediate information.

Wars between rival taxi operators are common in the black townships around Cape Town, where scores of people have died, but so far have not been a feature of the violence in Johannesburg's satellite townships.

Elsewhere, police said the body of a man with back wounds had been found in Johannesburg's Alexandra township.

## COLUMN

### Woody Allen seeks custody of children from Mia Farrow

NEW YORK (AP) — Woody Allen began legal action to win custody of his three children from actress Mia Farrow, a longtime companion. The comedian-actor-director had been with Farrow for about 12 years. They have one son together, Satchel, 4; an adopted son, Moses, 14; and an adopted daughter, Dylan, 7. The couple have never been married and have maintained separate residences. Allen's public relations agency, TMK, said in a statement that Allen "has never discussed his private life in public, and he does not intend to do so now." ICM, a public relations firm that represents Farrow, had no immediate comment. Allen said he would speak only on condition of anonymity said "it would be fair" to say they are no longer romantically involved. However, they do see each other with regard to their children. Farrow also has eight other children, all adopted except twin sons she had with her former husband, conductor-pianist Andre Previn. She had seven children, including the twins, when Allen first met her in 1979. The couple have been together since 1980. They live on opposite sides of Central Park — he on Fifth Avenue and she on Central Park West. Farrow has performed several leading roles in Allen's films, including Zelig and Alice.

### Gill, Tritt get top country music nominations

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (R) — Country balladeers Travis Tritt and Vince Gill each got five nominations while Alan Jackson and Reba McEntire got four apiece to top finalists in the Country Music Association (CMA) annual awards. Newcomer Billy Ray Cyrus, whose surprise hit Achy, Breaky Heart has won a wide following in the past few months, was nominated to win album of the year and music video of the year. Cyrus was left off the lists for Entertainer of the Year, Male, vocalist or Horizon Award for career development, however, the CMA disclosed in announcing finalists for its 26th annual awards show. Superstar Garth Brooks, last year's Entertainer of the Year whose popularity has moved far beyond the confines of country, was nominated for entertainer, male vocalist and his album Ropin' The Wind.

### Shake hands please, Malaysia tells women envoys

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Mainly Muslim Malaysia has told female Muslim government officials serving overseas to shake hands with foreigners at official functions, a Prime Minister's Department official said. The official confirmed a letter was sent last month to overseas staff after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad during a recent trip noticed women officials were reluctant to shake hands. Under strict interpretation of Islamic laws, Muslim women must avoid bodily contact with men other than their husbands or close relatives. Malaysia practices a moderate form of Islam but pockets of fundamentalism exist in the country.

### Japan troops to be armed with condoms in Cambodia

TOKYO (R) — Japan has yet to decide on the logistics of deploying U.N. peacekeepers in Cambodia, but one thing looks certain — its troops will be armed with condoms. Along with landmines and recalcitrant Khmer Rouge guerrillas, AIDS has been added to the potential hazards facing Japanese troops serving abroad for the first time since World War II. "It's a matter of hygiene," a Defence Ministry official told Reuters about the decision to distribute condoms. The official said the government was concerned only about preventing disease, not in encouraging promiscuity among Japanese troops. A Japanese government fact-finding mission is now in Cambodia to prepare for the arrival of the first detachment of troops next month. "One of the main tasks of the mission is to look into the situation of hygiene there, including AIDS," the official said.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### S.Korean students fight riot police

SEOUL (R) — South Korean students hurled fire bombs Friday as riot police used tear gas to attack students gathering on the eve of an outlawed pro-unification rally at a Seoul university campus, witnesses said. An estimated 10,000 students occupied the Seoul National University campus on the eve of the rally, they said. About 500 students wielding iron bars jeered and booed as the riot police tried to move onto the campus, 15 kilometres from the city centre to break up the rally, witnesses said. "Despite several attempts, the riot police have not been able to get inside," one witness said. Earlier, witnesses saw students blow up a truck and armoured van used to launch teargas grenades near the campus.

#### Probe slams Thai army for massacre

BANGKOK (R) — Thai army commanders showed poor judgement and over-reacted in ordering the suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in May, a government-appointed investigation team has concluded. The inquiry team criticised two laws that had allowed the army to "abuse its power" revised the death toll down to 42, and said 69 people were still missing, according to an official statement Friday. The Interior Ministry says 52 people were killed, with 207 people still missing. Non-government organisations put the death toll even higher and say 485 people are still unaccounted for. "The order to stage a tough suppression of the protesters was made in a quick decision which proved the poor judgement (of commanders), coupled with loopholes in two outdated laws that allow the military to abuse its power," said the statement, signed by the head of the investigation panel, Sophon Rattankorn.

#### Kashmiris defy Indian ban

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Kashmiri Muslims defied shoot-on-sight orders in their Indian-ruled Himalayan state to observe Pakistan's independence Day Friday. New Delhi routinely denounces the annual Aug. 14 celebrations by Kashmiri dissidents. But witnesses and police said Friday that Indian troops were given unusual orders to shoot at any pro-Pakistan demonstration. Militants declared the day a holiday and all shops were closed to observe their call, witnesses said. Reporters who toured Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital, said demonstrators defied troops who had fanned out in the narrow lanes of the old city and shouted "long live Pakistan" and "Indians go home." In some lanes young boys climbed on electricity poles to hoist the Pakistan flag. There were reports of militant-led parades elsewhere in Kashmir, two-thirds of which is ruled by India. Barring one report of shooting by troops, the demonstrations so far had been peaceful, militant sources said.

#### China launches Australian satellite

PEKING (R) — China successfully launched a U.S.-made Australian telecommunications satellite Friday, five months after it first tried and failed to get an Optus B1 into orbit, state television said. Live television pictures showed the Long March-2E rocket, China's hope for joining the lucrative international space services industry, lifting off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the southwestern province of Sichuan. "It's great, it's very successful," an announcer said. On March 22, the first attempt to launch the Optus B1 — formerly called the Aussat — ended in embarrassing failure when a problem in the rocket's ignition system triggered an emergency shut-down.

#### China's Li Peng to visit Vietnam

HANOI (R) — Li Peng will become the first Chinese premier to visit Vietnam for over 20 years when he travels to Hanoi later this year, diplomats said Friday. "Regarding the visit by Chinese Premier Li Peng, both sides are now preparing," the Hanoi Foreign Ministry said without confirming the date of his visit. A dispute over the potentially oil-rich Spratly Islands in the South China Sea has fuelled tension between the nations. But Mr. Li wrote to Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet last week in conciliatory terms and confirming he will visit this year, diplomats said. Mr. Li will be the first Chinese prime minister to visit Hanoi since Chou Enlai in 1971.

## French insurance firm backs down on suspending policies to blood centres

PARIS (AP) — In a speedy reversal, France's largest insurance company said it is dropping its controversial plans to suspend the insurance policies of 25 regional French blood transfusion centres pending further study.

The decision Thursday night came less than 12 hours after the state-controlled Union Des Assurances de Paris had said it was suspending the policies based

on revelations from a trial involving the sale of AIDS-tainted blood to hemophiliacs.

Reversing the decision, the company, known as UAP, said it regretted the "emotion provoked" by its initial decision and UAP based its initial decision on trial revelations about a letter sent by Michel Garretta, former director of the National Blood

Transfusion Centre, to blood transfusion centres on June 19, 1985, warning them about AIDS danger and asking them to study their insurance policies "in order to adapt them to the greater risks linked to the transfusions."

Mr. Garretta and three associates are charged with allowing the sale of AIDS-infected blood in 1985 after they became aware of the contamination.

## Pakistan premier besieged by critics

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Under fire from disgruntled coalition partners, a rancorous opposition and a frustrated military, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif put a brave face on Friday's Independence Day celebrations.

Before hoisting Pakistan's Islamic green flag marking 45 years since the Indian subcontinent was partitioned, Mr. Sharif pleaded for an end to the confrontational politics that have characterised his 21 months in office.

"Our political system contains the element of confrontation, which has turned it into a flawed and sick system," he said. Mr. Sharif swept to power in November 1990, three months after former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's administration was unceremoniously dismissed on charges of widespread corruption and political ineptitude.

Now Mr. Sharif is tending off the same accusations, Ms. Bhutto's fortunes are looking up and the powerful army is banging at the door of Pakistan's fragile democracy.

"Twenty months ago (Ms. Bhutto's) chances of ever returning to power seemed to have been cooked forever. Not so today," said Ayaz Amir, a seasoned Pakistani political analyst.

Most Pakistanis believe corruption is more widespread now than during Ms. Bhutto's tenure and even her critics are beginning to question the logic of her dismissal.

None of the eight charges of corruption President Ghulam Ishaq Khan brought against Ms. Bhutto when he dismissed her government has been proven. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has been jailed since Oct. 10, 1990, on a variety of charges, but as yet hasn't been convicted of anything.

"Those charges should never have been brought against her. It was just the president's dislike for her. Two years later and there's still no conviction. It doesn't look good," said a minister in Mr. Sharif's cabinet who asked not to be identified.

Mr. Sharif is seen by most

Pakistanis as subordinate to the president, who has the constitutional authority to dismiss the National Assembly or powerful lower house of parliament. The president can also dismiss the provincial assemblies.

But in Pakistan, where the military has ruled for 25 of its 45 years in existence, the army is the most powerful factor in the power-sharing equation.

Ms. Bhutto, whose left-leaning Pakistan People's Party markets itself as the champion of democracy, has started making overtures to the army.

She offered constitutional changes to give the military a decision-making role, but only for five years.

The army already controls southern Sindh province, wracked by lawlessness and bloody ethnic violence. The provincial capital of Karachi, a city of 9 million, is like a battlefield with sandbag bunkers at main intersections and armoured personnel carriers parked outside the often volatile universities.

## Bush team gets new leader, Clinton hits Bush on foreign policy

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush shook up his White House team, tapping Secretary of State James Baker to breathe life into a listless election campaign while Democrat Bill Clinton attacked Mr. Bush on foreign policy, usually the president's strong suit.

Hoping to turn his campaign around, Mr. Bush said Mr. Baker would become his chief of staff a week after the start Monday of the Republican convention that will nominate Mr. Bush for a second term in the White House.

Mr. Clinton, holding a solid lead over Mr. Bush in public opinion polls, said in a foreign policy speech in Los Angeles that the world was a new place and "I do not believe he has a complete vision of this new era."

Adding to turmoil over the emotional issue of abortion that could mar the party unity Mr. Bush hoped to project at the convention, his wife Barbara con-

tradicted him by saying abortion should not be mentioned at all in the party platform.

The draft platform, which delegates will vote on at the convention next Monday, includes a call for a constitutional amendment to ban abortion — a stand Mr. Bush supports, saying he would rather lose the election than change his stand.

"I'm saying a personal thing. The personal things should be left out of, in my opinion, out of platform and conventions," she said. Excerpts from the interview were released Thursday.

Mr. Clinton favours legalised abortion and so do a small group of Republican leaders who have been battling to get their views included in the platform, the par-

ty's main policy statement for the Nov. 3 election.

Outlining his own foreign policy philosophy of gearing up for economic competition, Mr. Clinton — who has been Arkansas governor for 12 years with no direct foreign or military experience — charged Mr. Bush had cosied up to dictators.

"From the Baltics to Peking, from Sarajevo to South Africa, time after time, this president has sided with the status quo rather than democratic change, with familiar tyrants rather than those who would overthrow them, with the old geography of repression rather than a new map of freedom," Mr. Clinton said.

Democrats in Congress said Mr. Baker was leaving the top U.S. foreign policy post at a time when he was needed to assist in various international crises.

Mr. Clinton believed the campaign could get dirtier, but in a shrewd way.

The Democratic nominee still expects a negative campaign with the mild-mannered Baker at the helm, "but it will be more cleverly negative," he told reporters.

Mr. Clinton's vice presidential running mate, Al Gore, said Mr. Baker's appointment showed Mr. Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle were "in a state of political panic."

Officially, Mr. Baker, who achieved a career goal when Mr. Bush named him as secretary of state in 1989, told colleagues in a speech chocking back emotion that he wanted to set the agenda for Mr. Bush's next four years.

But unofficially, his immediate goal is to reorganise the Bush campaign to get his campaign wagon rolling after trailing Clinton in polls since the mid-July Democratic convention.

Mr. Bush's campaign has been erratic at best, with key Bush events often distracted by side issues. At times his campaign appeared to be without coordi-

ated leadership.

Mr. Baker, replacing Samuel Skinner as White House chief of staff, will bring many of his own team from the State Department to work with him in the job he once held under former President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Skinner was given a mostly honorary post of general chairman of the Republican Party.

There was some mildly good news in a CNN-USA Today Gallup poll Thursday for Mr. Bush, which suggested that Clinton's still-sizeable lead may be eroding.

The poll said Mr. Clinton led Bush by 19 percentage points, 56 to 37 per cent, in a survey that had a margin of error of three percentage points. The same poll showed Mr. Clinton with a 25 point lead at the beginning of this month.

A new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found Mr. Clinton leading by 18 points, 54 to 36 per cent.

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